### Germany **And France** Said to Back Prodi for EU

Former Italian Leader Appears Front-Runner To Replace Santer

By Alan Friedman and Barry James International Herald Tribune

France and Germany have agreed that their first choice for president of the European Commission is former Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy, ac-

cording to European officials.

The joint choice, which was discussed Friday morning during a meeting in Paris among President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and the German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder German chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, means that the European Union's two most important member nations are likely to back Mr. Prodi.

But EU officials in Brussels stressed that the nomination was not a given and that a special summit conference would be held to discuss the issue.

In Rome, Mr. Prodi addressed his candidacy in public for the first time late Friday, saying he was "available" for the job, but adding that he would accept only if offered a full, five-year term and given the freedom to run a "strong

European program."

Already, Mr. Prodi, a political centrist and pragmatist with a background in economics and strong political ties with northern European nations, was considered the front-runner to replace Jacques Santer, who resigned early Tuesday along with the entire European Commission in the wake of an inquiry into fraud, corruption and nepotism.

After a meeting with Mr. Chirac and Mr. Jospin at the Elysce Palace on Friday, Mr. Schroeder said that he and Mr. Chirac were in agreement on a candidate for a new commission president, but he said both France and Germany had decided not to disclose the name of their choice.

Soon after the Schröeder-Chirac meeting, Mr. Prodi met in Rome with Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema, who discussed the European Commission presidency on the telephone with Mr. Chirac, then announced for the first time that Mr. Prodi was Italy's official

Until Friday, Mr. Prodi had remained silent on his future, in part because he is leading a new Italian political move-ment that has irritated Mr. D'Alema and

his Democratic Left party.

Mr. Schroeder, speaking after talks
with Mr. Santer, said he wanted a quick solution to the crisis and promised that EU leaders would discuss the subject during a Berlin summit meeting next week. Mr. Schroeder said, "It is always important in European questions that France and Germany should agree, and

agreement on this will be achieved." But he and Mr. Chirac failed to agree on cutting agricultural subsidies, leaving a major problem to be settled at the

'To be frank, there are still differ-

See EU, Page 4

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Page 7.

Page 3.

Page 8.

Pages 18-19.

Pages 5, 18.

### Massive Bomb in South Russia Kills at Least 62



Emergency workers carrying a bomb victim Friday from the wreckage of an open market in the city of Vladikavkaz. The Caucasian region is a hotbed of raids, murders, abductions and revenge attacks. Page 2.

## Primakov, a Russian for All Seasons

By David Hoffman ashington Post Service

The end was near for the Soviet Union as President Mikhail Gorbachev wavered in 1991 on whether to liberalize the economy further than it had gone under glasnost,

Yevgeni Primakov met with Mr. Gorbachev at a Black Sea retreat and urged him to move toward market reform. "It's the last chance," Mr. Primakov said, according to another member of Mr. Gorbachev's inner circle, Anatoli Chernyaev, who was present. "We must do some drastic

Seven years later, Mr. Primakov was catapulted into office as prime minister amid a political and economic

crisis. Russia's new market economy was reeling from a ruble devaluation in August and Mr. Primakov's outlook had markedly changed. "We can't go on waiting for the

market environment to solve our problems," he declared. Such is the long road traveled by Mr. Primakov, a supreme survivor of the Soviet and Russian political esablishment who is, in effect, Russia's day-to-day ruler.

Once he was part of a small group of academics who believed they could gradually reform socialism, and the Soviet Union, from within. Now, after Russia's wrenching initial trial with the free market, Mr. Primakov is trying to stop the clock on what many regard as Russia's "wild

See PRIMAKOV, Page 4

## NATO Takes Steps **Toward Air Strikes Against Serbians**

Monitors Begin Leaving Kosovo; Bombing Could Start Next Week

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS - Western governments prepared for military confrontation and possible hostilities with Serbia on Friday, ordering international monitors out of Kosovo and blaming Slobodan Mi-losevic, the president of Yugoslavia, for blocking peace talks on the province.

Once the monitors' withdrawal has been completed, probably this week-end, the way would be clear for NATO air strikes. "I think we'll be going to bombing pretty soon," Senator Joseph Biden, Democrat of Delaware, said Fri-day in Washington after President Bill

Clinton briefed congressional leaders.

Speaking at news conference in Washington later Friday, Mr. Clinton said: "Make no mistake, if we and our allies do not have the will to act, there will be more massacres. In dealing with aggressors in the Balkans, hesitation is a ense to kill."

He added, "I do not want to put a single American pilot in the air. I do not want anyone else to die in the Balkans. I do not want a conflict."

continued, "is to try to leave to my successors an environment in Europe that is stable, humane and secure." He declined to say if there was a

Western leaders apparently decided that they have no alternative to military action when they faced the combination of Serbian refusal to sign the peace plan and a buildup of Serbian forces in and around Kosovo. President Jacques Chirac of France, in a phrase reminiscent of air strikes last year on Iraq, said Mr. Milosevic was "solely responsible" for drawing punishment on his country.

Officials said air strikes could start

early next week. Western leaders have long threatened military action against Serbian military targets in Kosovo and in Serbia itself if Mr. Milosevic became the sole obstacle to a settlement. NATO strikes reportedly will be designed to cripple Ser-bian military strength and compel Mr. Milosevic to accept the settlement signed by the ethnic Albanians before

the Paris talks ended Friday. No further ultimatum to Mr. Milosevic will be issued, European officials said, explaining that their governments

See KOSOVO, Page 4

### **Balloonists** Reach Middle not want a conflict." "But a part of my responsibility," he Of Atlantic And a Record

By Malcolm W. Browne New York Times Service

GENEVA - The Breitling Orbiter 3 balloon was less than one day's flying time Friday from achieving what had thwarted balloonists for two centuries: a

nonstop voyage around the world.

The big balloon's pilots, Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss psychiatrist, and Brian Jones, a British balloonist, radioed a message to their ground crew headquarters at Geneva Airport that, for the first time in their 19 days aloft, they had begun to relax. It appeared virtually certain that a global circumnavigation was imminent.

The balloon team's meteorologists forecast that the balloon, now over the Atlantic after traversing Europe, Asia, the Pacific Ocean and Central America. would make landfall over the western Sahara Desert early Saturday morning. Forecasters said that by about 1400 GMT Saturday, the balloon would reach 9 degrees west longitude, marking the completion of a global circumnavigation that began in the Swiss Alps.

But Alan Noble, the flight director of the project, said at a news conference-Friday evening in Geneva that the balloon may have enough fuel to continue on to Egypt, perhaps even to a landing near the Pyramids at Giza.

"Brian would love to land at that impressive place, and we would like it too, because there's a good network of roads in the Nile Valley and that would

See BALLOON, Page 4

## French Retailer Moves to Rescue Gucci

Move by Pinault Prompts Full Bid by LVMH for Italian Fashion House

By John Tagliabue New York Times Service

ROME - A battle for control of Gucci empted Friday when a wealthy French takeover investor agreed to pay \$3 billion for a 40 percent stake in Gucci rescue it from a hostile bid by LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vnitton

SA, the French luxury-goods maker. But LVMH responded to the deal between Gucci and Francois Pinault, whose holdings include France's biggest department store, Converse sneakers and Samsonite higgage, by launching an offer for 100 percent of Gucci's shares. The drama that ricocheted in moves and countermoves through the day pitted

two of France's most powerful and most

AGENDA

Libya will hand over to the United Nations by April 6 the two suspects in

the 1988 bombing of an American passenger jet over Lockerbie, Scot-land, President Nelson Mandela of

Libya made the promise in a letter to

the UN secretary-general, Kofi An-

South Africa said Friday.

Libya to Hand Over 2 Lockerbie Suspects

unconventional capitalists against each other for control of Gucci, the hot item in the global fashion world. Mr. Pinault, who went to work in the family lumberyard at 16, has had a string of successful takeovers and is ranked among the richest men in the world. (Page 11)

It was the latest example of the new no-holds-barred dueling that is overtaking Europe as companies consolidate to meet the challenges of globalization and a unifying European market.

The shares of all three companies rose to record levels. Gucci shares rose as much as 6.8 percent, to 68.25 euros (\$74.34), before closing at 67 euros. LVMH rose as much as 4.2 percent before settling at 234.20 euros, after it announced it would bid for all of Gucci.

nan, which Mr. Mandela read during a

nan, which Mr. Mandela read during a speech in Tripoli as the Libyan leader, Colonel Moammar Gadhafi, looked on Reading from the letter, Mr. Mandela said Libya agreed that the suspects, if convicted, would serve any

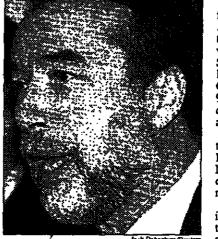
prison sentence in Scotland under UN

supervision, Page 2.

At stake for LVMH and its chairman, Bernard Amault, was not only the potential loss of Gucci, a target it has been going after since January, when it began acquiring a 34.4 percent stake in Italian company. It also faced the possibility of competition from a strong new French-controlled luxury group built around Gucci.

For Mr. Pinault, the deal would be not only a lifeline extended to Domenico De Sole, chief executive of Gucci, who has been seeking a defense against LVMH, but also the latest move in Pinault-Printemps' push beyond the bounds of its businesses of department stores, books, records and mail-order sales. Last year,

See GUCCI, Page 11



Mr. De Sole outlining the linkup Friday with Pinault-Printemps.

## Nostalgia Engulfs Clinton White House

In Political Twilight, President Is Still Combative but Sentimental, Too

By John M. Broder New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The lights had dimmed, the band was packing up, the crowd of more than 2,000 in the cavernous convention hall had dwindled to less than two dozen.

But here was the president of the United States, still working the ropeline, shaking every last hand, soaking up the last glimmering rays of Arkansas ad-

The scene last weekend at the Little Rock convention center after a state Democratic Party fund-raising dinner captured a revealing moment as the blazing and bewildering political career of Bill Clinton enters its twilight.

More and more, the president looks and sounds like yesterday's man, spending large measures of his precious final days in office revisiting the scenes of yesterday's glories and trying to forget the pain of the humiliating impeach-ment battle he survived. He is clinging

In Hong Kong, a Growing Sense That Tycoons Skew Competition

to his last hours on stage, as the spotlight shifts to the rising careers of Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Al

vention hall where Mr. Clinton lingered in nostalgic reverie last Saturday sits Arkansas' Old State House, where Mr. Clinton and throngs of delirious thousands celebrated his two presidential election victories on crisp November nights. The weekend trip to Arkansas included a visit to Hope, where he dedicated his boyhood home as a historical

Last month, Mr. Clinton took a sentimental journey to New Hampshire, not only to boost the candidacy of Mr. Gore, but also to relive his own triumph seven years ago, when he overcame charges of adultery and draft-dodging to place a respectable second in the New Hampshire primary. That near-victory earned him the moniker of "Comeback Kid" and catapulted him to the presidency.

private ruminations, Mr. Clinton's mortality weighs heavily on him, as the poet John Keats put it, like unwilling sleep. Though only 52, Clinton has lived the Only a hundred yards from the conequivalent of three lifetimes in politics

and soon will be one of the youngest expresidents ever. Mr. Clinton spoke last Saturday in Little Rock of his "imminent retire-ment" and reminded his audience that life and human accomplishment are

fleeting.

When you strip it all away. Mr.
Clinton said as a cold March rain fell outside, "it comes down to that — to humility, humanity, a sense of one's own mortality and one's own capacity for incredible dimits and olon;"

for incredible dignity and glory. But along with wistfulness there is remorse, too, and abiding anger. The time for public apologies is past - Mr. Clinton issued near-weekly expressions of regret in the final months of the Monica Lewinsky saga — but the pres-

See CLINTON, Page 4

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### MECCA-BOUND — Iraqi buses carrying some of the 18,000 Iraqi pilgrims en route to holy sites in Saudi Arabia. The Saudis resolved a UN-Iraq dispute Friday by agreeing to cover pilgrims' costs. Page 2. In his public comments and his

By Philip Segal

HONG KONG - On any morning, a typical resident here may wake up in an apartment de-veloped by one of a handful of billionaire Hong Kong property owners, take a bus to work owned by one of the same tycoons, and make a mobile phone call along the way over a tycoon-owned network. On the way home, he may stop off at one of the

two dominant grocery stores or pharmacies owned

by tycoons, go to the post office to pick up a package

that was cleared through the port by a tycoon-owned freight handler, or perhaps pay an electricity bill from a utility controlled by a tycoon. Most casual students of Hong Kong know that a handful of fabulously rich people here control the

bulk of real estate development, which is the lifeblood of the economy. Less well known is how concentrated other parts of the economy are, often those same few, wealthy hands.

While Hong Kong was voted for four years running as the world's freest economy by the conservative Heritage Foundation of the United States.

Calls by Hong Kong's independent Consume Council for a competition authority to monitor the government's handing out of licenses and con-tracts have been rebuffed by government officials, who contend that they are well able to police industry themselves. Yet, the dispute continues.

"In the course of discussions with trade bodies

partly because it has one of the world's lowest tax rates and few trade barriers, the reality of its domestic economy is another story. It features a rash of anti-competitive restrictions and one of the weakest competition regimes in the developed world. cross-subsidization, exclusive dealing, price discrimination, resale price maintenance and pricefixing," the council said in a recent submission to the legislature.

Due to the fact that some very large and

See HONG KONG, Page 10

## Bomb Kills 62 at South Russian Market, Wounding Scores

By David Hoffman Vashington Past Service

MOSCOW --- A powerful bomb det-onated at a central food market in a southern Russian city on Friday killed 62 people and wounding 107 in what authorities called a terrorist attack.

The bomb in Vladikavkaz destroyed a 15-meter-high (50-foot) wall in the main trading hall of the market, killing dozens of people instantly with shrapnel, according to reports from there.

Survivors were being carried off in vegetable carts as the police hunted for clues amid blood-splattered freight trucks, upended potato stands and the remains of bodies.

Kazbek Guslev, head of medicine at the hospital in Vladikavkaz, said people had suffered fragmentation wounds and broken limbs. Press reports said the bomb had a timer and explosive power equivalent to six kilograms of TNT.

responsibility for the attack. Our people are shaken by this brutal, cruel crime," said Alexander Dzasokhov, president of the Russian re-public of North Ossetia, where the blast occurred.

President Boris Yeltsin appeared on Russian television Friday night in a brief Kremlin videotape, vowing a 'merciless fight' against those who had carried out the market attack. He had just been discharged from a 19-day stay in a hospital where he was recovering from a bleeding ulcer.

"I apologize, because I am respon-sible for everything," Mr. Yeltsin said, promising aid to the victims' families. He sent Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin and Vladimir Putin, director of the Federal Security Service, to oversee the investigation.

Mr. Stepashin said he was in Vladikavkaz "to find and disarm the

There were no immediate claims of bandits who executed this terrible terrorist act.'

Taimuraz Mamsurov, head of the North Ossetian government, said on local television that "forces seeking to sow chaos and terror" were responsible. He did not elaborate.

Vladimir Vasilyev, first deputy in-terior minister of Russia, blamed "those forces who want to blow up the situation, the fragile peace in North Ossetia," where a civil war raged in the early 1990s.

Interfax quoted Vladikavkaz as saying the bombing ex-ceeded the scale of feuds between criminal gangs in the region.

Near the breakaway region of Chechnya, North Ossetia has been the scene of intense struggle among criminal groups as well as ethnic tensions rooted in the region's complex blend of

Chechnya, which fought a two-year

war for secession from Russia, has turned into a violence-wracked region with frequent kidnappings, including the recent abduction of a Russian Interior Ministry general, which triggered new threats from Moscow and the evacnation of all Russian personnel from the capital, Grozny.

The general has not yet been found, but the episode increased the volume of threats from Russia. Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov and the Chechen President, Aslan Maskhadov, were preparing to meet in the next few days to discuss the growing tensions, according

#### Yeltsin Dismisses Chief of Staff

President Yeltsin dismissed his chief of staff, Nikolai Bordyuzha, on Friday, apparently blaming the official for a humiliating setback the Russian president suffered in Parliament earlier in

The usually docile senators of the upper house had refused overwhelmingly three days previously to endorse Mr. Yeltsin's dismissal of Attorney

General Yuri Skuratov. The Russian leader, facing a fivecount impeachment hearing due to begin in Parliament on April 15, reacted angrily to the act of defiance over the attorney general, who has been investigating high-level corruption.

Mr. Skuratov has accused several key

players of wrongdoing.

Parliament ignored Mr. Yeltsin's recommendations and refused to approve Mr. Skuratov's resignation.

Mr. Bordynzha also lost his job as secretary of the Security Council, which deals with defense and security matters, a Kremlin spokesman said.

The spokesman said that Alexander Voloshin, deputy presidential chief of staff, had been appointed to replace Mr.

### **UN-Iraq Dispute Resolved,** Saudis Pave Way to Mecca

By Douglas Jehl New York Times Service

RIYADH — A dispute between Iraq and the United Nations that threatened to annual hajj was resolved Friday when Saudi Arabia said it would pay the Iraqis' expenses in the kingdom.

began a 1,900 kilometer (1,200-mile) journey to the holy city of Mecca, birthplace of the Prophet Mohammed, where hundreds of thousands of Muslims from around the world are gathering, as they do at this time each year.

The Iraqi pilgrims had spent days stranded on the border, bused there by the Baghdad government to dramatize the standoff. And like another hajj-related pambit this week, the move seemed to have succeeded in using religion as a

In the earlier move, Iraq sent three aircraft loaded with more than 300 elderly

Libya Agrees

To Handover

On Lockerbie

CAIRO - Libya will turn over

two Libyans for trial by April 6 on

charges of blowing up a Pan Am passenger jet over Lockerbie, Scot-land, in 1988, President Nelson

Mandela of South Africa said Fri-

day. The bombing killed 270

people.
Mr. Mandela, who brokered a

deal with the Libyan leader, Colonel

Moammar Gadhafi, for the hand-

over, said Libya had made the com-

Nations secretary-general, Kofi An-

Libya has agreed to ensure that the two suspects would be available for Mr. Annan "to take custody of

them on or before 6 April," for their

trial in the Netherlands, Mr. Man-

dela said in a televised speech to

Libya has agreed that the sus-

pects would serve any possible pris-

on sentence in Scotland under UN

Colonel Gadhafi has in the past

The latest deal has a good chance

of working out, given that Colonel Gadhafi has involved the reputation

of Mr. Mandela, a highly respected longtime ally. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia helped Mr. Mandela broker

It is the first time Colonel

Gadhafi has agreed to a date for the

handover of the two suspects, Abdel

Basset Ali Megrahi and Lamen

an people to continue the confron-

tation." Colonel Gadhafi said. "But

we have accepted," because of Mr. Mandela and King Fahd, he said.

'I would have called on the Liby-

Khalifa Fhimah.

agreed to a trial but with conditions

that prolonged the deadlock.

supervision, Mr. Mandela added.

Libyan politicians in Tripoli.

itment in a letter to the United

pilgrims to Mecca, apparently in vio-lation of UN sanctions. Sandi Arabia briefly confiscated two of the planes, but after members of the UN sanctions committee failed to agree on whether the prevent Iraqi pilgrims from making the religious journeys were in fact a violation, the Saudis allowed the planes to return to Baghdad.

Under a quota system to avoid the Thousands of Iraqis were allowed to cross into Saudi Arabia as a result and began a 1,900 kilometer (1,200-mile) dangers of overcrowding at the annual pilgrimage, each Muslim country has the right to send 1,000 pilgrims per million population. That gives Iraq a total of 23,000, and Iraqi authorities at the border were reported to have said that 18,000 crossed into Saudi Arabia on Friday.

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Iraq have remained uneasy since the Gulf War of 1991. But Saudi Arabia has always put its religious obligations ahead of political differences, and it could have been open to criticism from Muslims around the world if it had been perceived as turning the pilgrims away.

The official Saudi news agency

quoted Prince Nayef, the interior minister and head of the hajj commission, as saying that King Fah had decided to pay the pilgrims' costs, expected to amount to about \$2,000 per person.

The question of how the Iraqi pil-grimage costs should be paid has also bedeviled the United Nations throughout the more than eight years in which it has enforced a strict regime of economic sanctions against Iraq.

Last year, the sanctions committee, composed of the same 15 nations that sit on the United Nations Security Council, agreed that some of the oil money that Iraq is allowed to spend on imports like food could also be used to subsidize hajj pilgrims. To maintain strict control over the money, it developed a system that required Iraqi pilgrims to exchange vouchers for each only once they crossed

A possible compromise, in which the Security Council proposed that the Red Cross or another independent agency distribute the funds, had also been rejected by Iraq, resulting in the deadlock that was broken by Saudi Arabia on Friday.

■ Irag Led the Procession's Way

The Saudi decision to pay for the Iraqis came after Iraqi officials led busloads of pilgrims through the lightly guarded checkpoints without permission Friday, wire services reported.

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - The State De-

partment has released internal docu-

ments showing that it had concluded that

a senior diplomat, who is the new special

envoy to the Balkans, did not lie to

Congress about death squads in Haiti.

But the agency admonished him for not

bins, in October, the department's per-

sonnel office said he had testified in

"good faith," and that his answers to the House Committee on International Re-

lations three years ago were "technically

correct." But the personnel office concluded that he "may have demonstrated poor judgment" and was "not respons-

In a letter to the diplomat, James Dob-

giving complete testimony.



The U.S. chargé d'affaires, Richard Miles, and his wife, Sharon, waving to employees as they left the U.S. residence in Belgrade on Friday. Nonessential staff were evacuated as the threat of NATO strikes increased.

### Arthur Doak Barnett, 77, Dies; **Advised Presidents on China**

By Patrick E. Tyler New York Times Service

Arthur Doak Barnett, 77, a leading scholar and government adviser on China, died of respiratory failure Monday in Washington.

Born to missionary parents in Shanghai in 1921, Mr. Barnett, who used his middle name, was among the most prolific writers about Chinese affairs. But he was best known for working behind the scenes in Congress and the executive branch to improve relations between China and the United States.

His influence always seemed to be During his academic career, Mr. greater than indicated by his official Barnett wrote or edited more than 20 positions, which included a long stint at books about China. the Brookings Institution in Washington and teaching posts at Columbia and Johns Hopkins universities.

In 1966 he was the principal witness for an extensive review of China policy conducted by Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. At the time China was regarded as an implacable enemy of the United States, a supporter of the

sued a "letter of admonishment," which

is not considered a formal disciplinary

action, that will not be placed in his file

and will be destroyed after one year. The

documents were released late Thursday.

viewing a report by the State Depart-

ment's inspector-general. The inspec-

tor-general accused Mr. Dobbins of giv-

ing testimony that was "incomplete,

misleading and possibly perjurious,'

and of failing to exercise the integrity

expected of a senior executive branch

officer, according to a two-page unclas-

sified summary of the inspector-gen-

The inspector-general's office could not be reached for comment Thursday

The personnel office acted after re-

North Vietnamese war effort and a virulent force seeking to topple democratic governments like so many dominoes.

Mr. Barnett quietly encouraged both President Lyndon Johnson and President Richard Nixon to end China's isolation. It was Mr. Barnett who coined the formula "containment without isolation". to describe a diplomatic opening that still recognized China's danger.

Over the years, Mr. Barnett remained confident that the tally of common interests between China and the United States was greater than the points of

contention.

Walter Decker Scott. 84, who stepped down as chairman of NBC in 1974 after a 36-year career that spanned the heyday of network radio and TV's golden age, died of complications from pneumonia March 12 in Carmel, California. Mr. Scott led the network in the mid-1960s, when it committed itself to color programming.

#### Farrakhan Is Battling Recurrence of Cancer

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, is recovering from a recurrence of prostate cancer and will take a fourmonth sabbatical, his physician said

Mr. Farrakhan, 65, was first treated for prostate cancer in 1991. Concern about his health began this week after the Nation of Islam's newspaper. The Final Call, reported that Mr. Farrakhan had been ill since early January with an undiagnosed condition.

# With Defiance

By Carlotta Gall New York Times Service

KOSOVO POLJE, Yugoslavia

said a policeman. 'It is not important

The issue that is far more important to

foreign troops. Your army has nothing to

do in my country."

A 21-year-old Yugoslav Army soldier, who would identify himself only as Ceda, said, "If necessary, we will fight

"We have two armies in Kosovo, the Kosovo Liberation Army and the Yugoslav Army," he said, referring to the ethnic Albanian guerrillas who are fighting for independence and the govemment forces who are battling them.

Civilians living in Kosovo Polje, a Serbian settlement several kilometers outside the provincial capital, Pristina,

"We do not need anyone to defend our people," said Dusanka Bank, a 71year-old grandmother who fought with

pilots downed over Serbia during the war. "They were young and handsome," she said. "One told my father, "I will come back after the war and take

But she remains adamant that the arrival of NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo would be bad because the force would not be a neutral one.

"The West supports the Albanians and they are fighting against us," she said. The Bauks have lived in Kosovo Polje for 60 years. Like every Serb, they cite the famous battle of Kosovo Polje in 1389 against the Ottoman Turks as ev-

"This is the heartland of Serbia," said Djura Bauk, Dusanka's husband and a retired mechanic

it not be important? It represents our history and our ancestors. We never attack, but we always defend our coun-

ers of President Slobodan Milosevic and were there to hear his now-notorious speech in Kosovo Polje in 1989, when he first raised the banner of Serbian nationalism. "Super, it was super," said Dusanka Bank, nodding firmly.

## A Serb Family Awaits Bombs

"So, is NATO going to bomb us?"
As Serbian soldiers and police officers drank coffee and cognac in the shabby Cafe Marko on the main street,

the same question kept cropping up.

It was mostly theorical. The threat of
NATO air strikes has grown familiar
over the last few months and few Serbs seem to think that they will actually happen now. "Anyway, we don't care," anymore.

Serbs living in Kosovo Province is whether a NATO-led military force will come to enforce a peace settlement. Serbs are violently opposed to the plan, which will give ethnic Albanians self-rule in Kosovo, and they place the blame for the idea squarely on the United States.
"We have lived here for centuries," the policeman said. "We don't want any

them but we will never accept them."

We want only our own."

speak in the same way.

the partisans in World War II.

She remembers rescuing two British your daughter.'

idence of their right to the lands of

Dragan Bank, his son, said: "How can

The Bank family are strong support-

#### unteer in the western town of Domacheyo, He admits being in the force after the Nazis overran the town in June 1941 but has denied all four charges. The judge ordered not-guilty findings on charges that Mr. Sawoniuk executed two Jewish men. He still faces charges in the killings of two Jewish women. Mr. Sawonink, who emered Bri-

#### Sweden Will Halve Its Military Force

in the country.

tain in 1946, is the first person to go

on trial on war-crimes charges since Parliament decided in 1991 to hunt down possible war criminals

(Reuters)

BRIEFLY

**War-Crime Counts** 

On Briton Dropped

LONDON — The judge in Britain's first war-crimes trial Friday

found a man who had been a po-

liceman in Nazi-occupied Belarus not guilty of two of four murder

charges because the evidence

Anthony Sawonink, 78, 2 former

British Rail ticket collector, was

accused of carrying out "with en-

thusiasm" Nazi policies of gen-

ocide against Jews as a police vol-

presented was insufficient.

STOCKHOLM Sweden, no longer fearing inva-sion, said Friday it would halve the size of its armed forces in line with

budget cuts.

"It will be tough and very quick," the Swedish chief of staff, General Owe Wiktorin, told military staff in an internal letter, "It's difficult but necessary to have modern armed forces for the future."

We are counting on cutting roughly six brigades, some 12 surface ships, five submarines, eight squadrons — roughly half of the organization," General Wiktorin said to reporters.

#### Finns Vote Sunday

HELSINKI - Finns vote in national elections Sunday, and Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen is con-

fident of victory.

"Nobody is taking the opposition seriously," the Social Democratic leader said Friday. "Everyone keeps asking us what policies we are going to pursue.

Surveys project that Mr. Lipponen's coalition, which commands 141 seats in the 200-member Parliament, will secure another comfortable majority.

#### TRAVEL UPDATE

### Ahoy the Cruise Ship, Mysteries on Board?

MIAMI (Reuters) - Cruise-ship life is a mystery to millions, judging from the questions typically put to U.S. travel agents by Americans considering seagoing vacations.

Does the crew go home at night?" is among the most frequently asked questions, according to a travel agents survey released at a Miami trade conference sponsored by the American Society of Travel Agents. "Can I fish off the boar?" is another.

Many people also want to know if they can take their dog, or "If I don't like it, can I get off?" and "If I get seasick, will I get a refund?"

#### America West Facing Strike by Attendants

PHOENIX (AP) - A four-year dispute over pay came to a head Friday as America West Airlines prepared for a strike by flight attendants. Unless an agreement was reached, attendants could strike as early as 12:01 A.M. Eastern time Saturday.

The flight attendants say they will stage a series of random, unannounced work stoppages, and the airline has threatened to shut down operations and fire attendants who go on strike.

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**DEATH NOTICE** 

GOLDFRANK, BREINDA of Manhaset.
NY died on March 11, 1999. She was peodecused by ber loving hunband Richard and her
son Brace. She is nervived by her daughter.
Dison Richards and her grandson Devid.
Goldbank Mrs. Goldbank, was born in 1915 in
Northkampon, MA and steended Colly-Sawyer
Jolleys. During her life she and her husband
divided their time between their houses in
Manhaset and Bugers, Minorco, Donastons
may be made to the Bannan Society of the
United States (RSUS).

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Middle East

Cold with fluries in Chica-go Sunday, but very mild with sunsitine by Tussday. Most of the East will have a mild and dry day Sunday, but showers Sunday night and Manday will be for lowed by cooker weather. shine through Tuesday, Windy and chity in Belling Sunday, but much milder with plenty of sunshine bust of heavy snow is liea-ly over the Alpa Sunday night into Monday, then heavy rain will develop from italy to Greece Mon-day and Tuesday. Surny, dry and cool in Madrid.

North America 6/43 6/47 25/77 10/50 25/77 25/42 15/69 10/61 6/43 17/62 11/52

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A Professional's Guide to Currency Speculation and Risk Management This comprehensive report is mandatory

### Correction

U.S. Balkans Envoy Admonished

A New York Times report in the Herald Tribune on Friday about the cost of the pilots' sickout for the AMR Corp., the parent of American Airlines, misstated the effect on the company's first-quarter financial results. AMR estimated that the action would cut \$200 million to \$225 million from its pretax earnings, not from its sales.

eral's report.

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## Clinton Aide to Review **Atom Security Threats**

By Walter Pincus ngton Post Service

WASHINGTON - Under attack over accusations of Chinese espionage in the United States, President Bill Clinton has asked former Senator Warren Rudman to conduct a bipartisan review of security threats to U.S. nuclear arms laboratories during the last 20 years.

Mr. Rudman, a New Hampshire Republican who heads the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, was asked to conduct an inquiry in 60 days not only of the current security situation but also of "the way in which it has evolved over the last two decades and the steps we have taken to counter it."

By looking into the history on security at the Energy Department's nuclear lab-oratories, the White House seems to be this is not just recent, but it probably has been exacerbated since the end of the trying to dampen Republican criticism of its pace in responding to the spy accusations, focusing attention as well on the Reagan and Bush administrations' reactions in the 1980s to critical security reports.

Republican congressional leaders have accused the Clinton administration in particular of reacting too alowly to indications in 1995 that information from Los Alamos National Laboratory got into Chinese hands in the mid- to late 1980s and may have helped China more swiftly develop miniature nuclear war-heads, several of which could be carried by a single ballistic missile.

In response, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and other administration officials have insisted that they tightened security regulations in 1998, after of-ficials realized the seriousness of the suspected breach. But the Republican attack has continued, with some critics seeking to connect the apparently slow reaction to other accusations that Mr. Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign accepted money from donors connected to the Chinese government.

Mr. Rudman will put together a four-person task force from his 12-member head at the laboratories.

advisory board and will trace the security situation from the past to the future, sources said. The panel is to include Sidney Drell, a professor and deputy director of the Stanford University Linear Accelerator Center. Mr. Drell is also a member of the University of California panel that supervises operation of the nuclear weapons laboratories that are run by the university under a contract to

the Department of Energy.
Senator Richard Shelby, the Alabama Republican who heads the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said that the Rudman inquiry "sounds O.K." but added that his panel "will continue to probe more ourselves." As for looking back at earlier administrations, Mr. Shelby said, "we know the history of Cold War."

One starting point for Mr. Rudman's panel could be a General Accounting Office report in October 1988 that warned the Reagan administration of major weaknesses" in the foreign visitors program at the nation's nuclear pons laboratories, including suspected foreign agents from Russia, China and other "sensitive" countries being able to make visits "without prior DOE knowledge."

The report by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, followed an inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into suspicions of spying at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the early 1980s and numerous internal Department of

Energy studies critical of security. But Breat Scowcroft, President George Bush's national security adviser, said laboratory security "was not an issue" during his time in office. Mr. Scowcroft said he was unaware of the accounting office report and was surprised to hear that articles were published about the accusations of Chinese



Rachel and Jose Pelosso after being told by the FBI that their danghter's car had been found burned out. they sometimes give inaccurate in stable condition.

#### Away From Politics

 A rental car driven by Silvina readings, the manufacturer, Kidde Pelosso and two friends who disappeared more than a month ago has been found burned out on a mountain highway north of Yosemite National Park, but no (AP) bodies were found.

 In a major legal victory for tobacco companies, a federal jury in Akron, Ohio, mied that the companies did not have to repay dozens of union health and benefit plans in Park. It had been released as part of that state the costs of treating smoking-related illnesses. (NYT)

 One million carbon monoxide alarms are being recalled because

the first lady, the aide testified in U.S. District

man Ewing, the deputy independent counsel, who was subpoenzed as the first witness for the

defense in the contempt-of-court trial of Susan

McDougal, a former business partner of the

Clintons'. Mr. Ewing was not asked what charges

he had specified in the draft indictment he drew

up against Mrs. Clinton but he suggested that he

considered her responses to questions put to her

under oath as less than forthcoming.
"The OIC illegally leaked this information a

long time ago," David Kendall, the Clintons' lawyer, said in a statement Thursday after Mr.

Ewing's testimony. He was referring to the office of the independent counsel. "The mere fact that this prosecutor's office drafted a frivolous in-

The disclosure came Thursday from W. Hick-

Court in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Safety, and U.S. officials say. (AP)

 Rezulin has been linked to 28 deaths since the diabetes drug went on sale in 1997, according to Warner-Lambert, the drugmaker. Rezulin faces scrutiny from federal advisers next week.

 A California condor was found shot dead in Grand Canyon National a reintroduction program.

 A 15-foot aluminum pole fell 22 stories in Times Square, injuring three women. All were hospitalized

#### **Older Drugs Match Prozac**

New York Times Service NEW YORK - A U.S. government report on antidepressants offers some conclusions that may surprise users of Prozac, even if they are no surprise to researchers: Prozac and other drugs of its generation are not any better - or any worse --- than older compounds in treating severe depression.

The report also sounded a note of caution for physicians who prescribe the new antidepressants for children. and for patients who are only mildly depressed: There has not been enough research to establish whether the drugs are effective in either case.

Psychiatrists who specialize in treating depression said the report, by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Re-search of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, would help put to rest claims that the new drugs make older antidepressants obsolete, as well as the skepticism of those who insist that older drugs remain the "gold standard" for treating severe

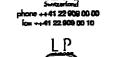


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#### POLITICAL NOTES

#### Patients' Rights Bill Rolls

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee has approved legislation to create a wide range of new rights for patients, but Democrats said the protections fell far short of what was needed to help people deal with insurance companies.

The question of patients' rights stirs more public interest than many issues before Congress, and Thursday's battle was only the first stage of a conflict likely to continue into the elections

By a party-line vote of 10 to 8, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions approved the patients' rights bill and sent it to the Senate floor. On the floor, Democrats will try to force an open-ended debate on patients' rights and the techniques used by health maintenance orthe techniques used by health maintenance organizations to save money. The bill was written mainly by the committee chairman, Senator James Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995." (NYT) Jeffords of Vermont, and reflects the approach favored by most Senate Republicans. (NYT)

#### Mrs. Clinton Was Indicted

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas -- Hillary Rodham Clinton was named in an indictment drafted by a grand jury, and no charges were brought against watch it. No. I haven't read it."

### Quote/Unquote

President Bill Clinton, on the eve of his first formal, solo news conference in almost a year, joking with reporters at a Radio and Television Correspondents' Association dinner: "Forget top aide to Kenneth Starr, the independent coun-the questions. Here are the answers The longest sel, but the document was never presented to a peacetime expansion in history. No, I didn't

#### **House Backs** Missile Plan

New York Times Service WASHINGTON -Following the Senate's lead, the House has decisively approved a bill to field a system to de-fend the United States against a limited longrange missile attack.

Unlike a similar bill approved by the Senate on Wednesday, the measure adopted Thursday by the House, 371-105, simply embraces the principle of a national missile defense system. The Senate version calls for installation of such a system "as soon as tech-

nologically possible."

The White House supports the Senate version, but not the House bill. because the Senate measure explicitly backs continued negotiations with Russia to reduce its still formidable nuclear arsenal.

Dennis Hastert, Republican of Illinois and speaker of the House, said the House would probably accept the Senate bill's language.

## Firing a Foreign Policy Shot Across Clinton's Bow

By John F. Harris and Helen Dewar Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON -- President Bill Clinton, say the Republicans, has played the dupe in pursuing closer relations with China. He has been heedless, according to the party line, in his willingness to send U.S. troops to Kosovo. And, on issues from missile defense to Pentagon spending, he stands accused of taking a naively shortsighted approach to the dangers

loose in the world.
These controversies are all signs of an unfamiliar sight springing up in recent days through Washington's political soil: a foreign-policy debate. After a long season in which America's role overseas was a mostly

stance than design.

Moreover, even some Republicans acknowledge they are still too far issues because of the strength of the from a consensus among themselves economy. to mount a sustained critique of Mr. Clinton's foreign policy.

Even so, recent events have presen-

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from allegations of Chinese espio- isolationism. nage at the Los Alamos nuclear lab in New Mexico to abortive efforts to fashion a peace agreement in Kosovo. With the Monica Lewinsky scandal Clinton's post-impeachment political

and a senior member of the Senate personal life. Foreign Relations Committee. "Republicans have gained largely by raising the right questions, questions the American people want to have asked.""

ticipate that foreign policy will be an are collapsing around him, our ability congressional Republicans and Re- or congressional elections will hinge. little more willing to listen." publican presidential candidates are But both sides said there were signs istration on multiple fronts.

It is a strategy, according to several of the party's leading foreign-policy voices, arrived at more by happen
strate than design.

This is a strategy, according to several of the party's leading foreign-policy is a place to gain traction against an administration—including its leader—

strate than design.

With oursiless interests in China. This foreign policy. A president who arrived in office burdened by doubts in stration may have played down evolutions, arrived at more by happen—

strategy according to several of the party's leading foreign-policy is a about his finency in foreign affairs idence of Chinese espionage at Los and his credibility in commanding the control of the party is leading foreign policy in a strategy according to several of the party's leading foreign policy is a about his finency in foreign affairs idence of Chinese espionage at Los and his credibility in commanding the control of the party is leading foreign policy in a proper of the party is leading foreign policy in a proper of the party is leading foreign policy. A president who arrived in office burdened by doubts in the administration may have played down evolutions. All the proper of the party is leading foreign policy in the party is leading foreign policy and the party is a constant to the party is a const in-waiting, Vice President Al Gore—military has over six years made sig-that is less vulnerable on domestic nificant strides with the public.

ted an uncommonly large number of broad agreement, for instance, beopportunities to fire at the execution tween Republican leaders and Mr. excellent or good; that is up from just of the administration's policies - Clinton on world engagement versus 30 percent at the end of 1994.

But there are long-standing complaints that his interest in problems from Irac to North Korea to Kosovo - is episodic, responding mostly to receding, Republicans have eagerly crises. Some believe his credibility in seized the chance to puncture Mr. dealing with Congress and world leaders has been seriously strained by his failure to live up to previous public "Almost everywhere you look pledges on such issues as the length of there are problems," said Senator the Bosnia deployment as well as by Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana his misleading statements about his

> "For some time, Republicans have been frustrated by our mability to show how badly this president has handled foreign-policy issues," said

A study released this week by the economy.

Many Republicans say their complaints with Mr. Clinton are not so organization, showed that 55 percent much over basic tenets — there is of the public regarded Mr. Clinton's

But this gradual improvement for Mr. Clinton, say polling experts such as Karlyn Bowman of the American Enterprise Institute, has not changed a larger reality that has prevailed for decades: The electorate generally tends to trust Republicans more on foreign policy. A new Washington Post-ABC News poll, for instance, showed that while Democrats retain an edge over Republicans in handling domestic policy, Republicans are favored, 46 percent to 38 percent, on

foreign policy. Republicans believe China policy has given them an opportunity to marry doubts about Mr. Clinton's for-Senator Larry Craig of Idaho, who is eign policy with larger doubts about Neither Mr. Clinton's White House chairman of the Senate Republican his overall trustworthiness. For two aides nor even most Republicans anabout whether his engagement policy domant issue in domestic politics, issue on which the 2000 presidential is easier and we have a public that is a toward Beijing was influenced by unprecedented levels of campaign con-It is not apparent, however, that Mr. tributions in 1996 from individuals on the offensive against the admin- that foreign policy may play a more Clinton is especially vulnerable on with business interests in China. This

> Even so, Republicans have yet to synthesize their varied attacks on Mr. Clinton into a coherent critique.

"There's a little consistency, but also a lot of opportunism," James McCormick, an Iowa State University political scientist. "It's more episodic, and it's more react-

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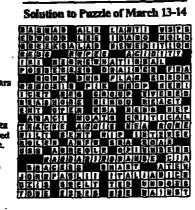
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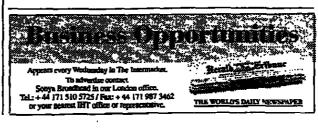
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New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.





#### KOSOVO: **Monitors** Leaving

Continued from Page 1

-had convinced the Clinton administration late Thursday that any new diplomatic deadlines could impair Western determination and worsen the military situation on the ground in Kosovo.

The observers' departure could trigger military escalation in the province, and possibly tempt the Serbs or extremist ethnic Albanians to try seizing hostages among the 1,800 unarmed civilian observers working there under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

NATO has a 12,000-member extraction force under French command in neighboring Macedonia poised to rescue monitors in an emergency, but Serb forces have mined roads leading through the frontier mountains and could threaten a relief bid that relied on helicopters, analysts said.

Stressing the urgency of intervention, General Wesley Clark, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization supreme commander, warned Friday that another humanitarian tragedy was under way in Kosovo as more civilians were forced to flee their homes. This crisis, he said, was caused "entirely by an escalation of Serbian military and police activity."
The United States, Britain, France,

Germany and Italy, five of the six nations involved in the Contact Group that sought to impose a political solution, agreed that the talks could not resume until the Serbs accepted the peace plan proposed by the group. Russia, alone in the Contact Group, insisted that the talks were only suspended, a stance that fit with Moscow's insistent opposition to NATO's plan for punitive air strikes against Serbia.

No timetable had been set for air strikes, said Christopher Hill, the U.S. diplomat who led the mediation effort, but French officials said that they expected NATO's secretary-general, Javier Solana, to get the green light for action quickly, perhaps as early as Sunday, when NATO ambassadors meet in Brussels.

French and British determination was echoed in Bonn, where a German official said: "My government is certainly not dragging its feet and sees no point in an ultimatum when developments on the ground seem so ominous.

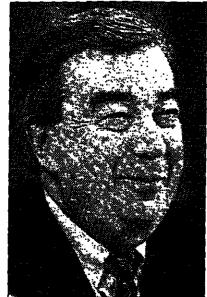
But all these officials shared the concern voiced by a French policymaker, to Brussels from Paris for further conwho stressed the military risks and political uncertainties confronting the United States and its European allies as they cross a threshold into a confrontation with no guarantees about the timing or nature of its outcome.'

NATO officials agreed, noting the contrast with Bosnia, where cruise missile strikes quickly persuaded the Bosnian Serbs to accept a cease-fire. NATO now is targeting regular Serbian forces, the core of the former Yugoslav Army, in their homeland, with air defenses -

and an apparent desire to fight. General Clark warned Friday that the NATO campaign would "not be a one- or two-bomb affair." NATO commanders were urging governments to compress the original plans, which called for a phased campaign to allow for a negotiating pause, into new orders allowing General Clark to escalate quickly to overcome Serb resistance without needing fresh authorizations from allied governments.

Otherwise, NATO officials acknowleven subsequent bombing could allow Serbian forces to step up their attacks on the Kosovar guerrillas and drive out the ethnic Albanian population from wider areas. Already, Serbian forces were being concentrated in and around Kosovo miles (160 kilometers) an hour. for what could be "a vast and violent onslaught," General Clark said.

Even more worrying for NATO planners is how long Western public opinion would support military action if Mr. Milosevic succeeds in riding out the military punishment while tightening his



Yevgeni Primakov, long an insider in Russia and now a leader who the oligarchs whose ascendancy became may be in line to become president. a symbol of President Boris Yeltsin's economy spiraling further downward.

Prodi Front-Runner

Continued from Page 1

ences of opinion between us on the ag-riculture package," Mr. Chirac said. "There has been progress under the Ger-

man presidency but it is not deemed

Schroeder was visiting European cap-

itals seeking consensus both on a com-

mission president and the complex issue

of reforming the EU's finances to permit

the expansion of the Union from 15 to up

Even the outgoing president, Mr. Santer, said Mr. Prodi would be the best

man for the job. He told La Repubblica

newspaper in Rome that Mr. Prodi "did

great things when he was prime minister

in Italy, proving his determination and

definite European."
"Moreover," he said, "he is able to

satisfy the two main European political

tendencies: the left and the center. There

sultations with Jose Maria Gil Robles.

the president of the European Parlia-

ment, which has vero rights over the

Mr. Prodi's demand to be appointed

on a "nontemporary, nonprovisional

should come after the election of a new

Sweden and the Benelux countries for

choice for commission president.

Later Friday, Mr. Schroeder traveled

to 26 members.

is no better man."

assembly in June.

In his role as EU president, Mr.

sufficient or satisfactory by France.

### PRIMAKOV: Russia's Man of All Seasons, and Next President?

Continued from Page 1

Since taking office six months ago, Mr. Primakov has put Russia's economic reforms on hold. The turnultuous transformation from Soviet central planning to market capitalism remains an unfinished, overriding issue — and Mr. Primakov has deliberately suspended

riches of recent years. Instead, he has harked back to an earlier day.

Mr. Primakov's rhetoric and goals have a distinctly Soviet ring. · He has called for restoring a strong.

central authority. · His government has toyed with creating a new, mammoth state-owned oil company.

• He promised recently to double state subsidies for the failing coal industry.

era, and its greatest excesses. But for the most part, even his close friends say, Mr. Primakov has just frozen the game. Privatization of state enterprises has slowed; a major overhaul of the troubled banking system is not in the cards and the ruble has continued to

slide in value. At the same time, the worst fears of the madcap, winner-take-all gamble for Mr. Primakov's critics - that he would man attempt to renationalize industry or touch off hyperinfiation - have not heen restized

> For months, Mr. Primakov has pursued a single goal, and he is going to at the bottom of the abyss." Washington next week to try to further He wants to win agreement from the West for just enough financial aid to roll over the \$4.5 billion that Russia owes the Mr. Yeltsin, to a successor. International Monetary Fund this year on earlier loans.

which the failing coal industry.

He has given the back of his hand to be oligarchs whose ascendancy became

That debt alone is a quarter of Russia's entire federal budget, and failure to arrange a deal could send the Russian

Russia's total obligations to overseas creditors are a crushing \$17.2 billion, and it already has defaulted on some Soviet-era debt.

"You are asking me why Primakov is doing nothing now?" said Vadim Bakatin, a former KGB director who was close to Mr. Primakov at the end of the Soviet era and is now a business-

"Honestly, I have the same question. Maybe it is the result of 80 years of communism. Or maybe the result of eight years of this idiotic course. We are

Within the next 15 months, and possibly sooner, the baton is to be passed from Russia's first elected president,

Yet few of the possible successors share the competitive market model that Mr. Yeltsin applied, unevenly, and that has now been battered and discredited.

In a recent interview, Mr. Primakov again insisted "no, no, no" when asked if he would run for the presidency. But the 69-year-old prime minister, the epitome of caution, the only member of Mr. Gorbachev's team to survive in high office during the Yeltsin years, is already in the constitutional line of succession if Mr. Yeltsin should die or become incanacitated and Mr. become incapacitated — and Mr. Yeltsin's health continues to be poor.

Once viewed as a caretaker, Mr. Pri-makov has become a political force to be reckoned with.

Among potential rivals to lead the country, his public opinion ratings are

'He is not thinking about retirement and building a nice dacha so he can spend time with his grandchildren," said a prominent Moscow academic who has known Mr. Primakov for nearly 30

But where would Mr. Primakov, who spent most of his life in a step-by-step advance toward the top of the Soviet hierarchy, take the new, and newly tattered Russia?

What drives the former intelligence chief who is known as charming and witty in private but ponderous and in-scrutable in public?

Mr. Primakov's own history and events of recent months offer some

They suggest a portrait of a master of back-room maneuvering who is a stranger to the limelight of electoral politics; of a bureaucrat trying to blend some old Soviet economic techniques with Russia's proto-capitalism; of a politician who would like to impose more authoritarian control over a country in which levers of power simply no longer work; of a leader who, despite Russia's weakened status, seeks to rebuild the country's influence abroad.

Robert Demargaryan, a childhood friend and classmate, recalled for the Russian magazine Ogonyok last year how Mr. Primakov missed the first week of classes in the first grade.

Fatherless, born in Ukraine, Mr. Primakov had moved to Tbilisi, Georgia, bonored to accept. As a result, Mr. and lived in a small communal apart-Santer is bidding to join the institution ment with his mother, a gynecologist. A that, in effect, toppled him.

"During the first two attempts it be-

ing it, so we never let up,"
Mr. Piccard's grandfather, who was

the first balloonist to reach the stra-

tosphere in a pressurized crew capsule,

a man-carrying submersible capable of

was also the builder of the Bathyscaphe,

tenacity, taking his country into the euro," the European single currency. Mr. Santer said Mr. Prodi was "a

Romano Prodi, the former Italian prime minister, says he is "available" for the job of European Commission president only if the appointment is made on a "nontemporary, nonprovisional and unconditional basis."

does indeed have support for the job, but Santer to Run for Parliament few Europe-watchers believe it would be possible for the Dutch to control both the European Central Bank, where Wim Duisenberg is president, and the Euro-

and unconditional basis" posed a prob-The filling of a job of this magnitude involves a series of shifts and trade-offs. lem for the Parliament, which would insist that his proper confirmation It is one of several important posts likely to become open in the next few months, A senior European government ofincluding a new high representative for ficial said Friday that the nomination of foreign and security affairs, the president of the European Investment Bank, Mr. Prodi "does not mean it is a done deal because there is still support from the secretary-general of the Western European Union and the secretary-gen-eral of the North Atlantic Treaty Or-Mr. Kok, the Dutch prime minister, ganization.

Mr. Santer plans to run for a seat in the European Parliament in June, Reuters reported Friday from Brussels. The commission said that Mr. Santer had agreed to head the list of Luxembourg's Social Christian Party in the June 13 poll.

The commission said Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg had announced on television that the Social Christian Party's leadership had named Mr. Santer to head the list. It said Mr. Santer had replied that he was that, in effect, toppled him.

### Rubin Wary **About Russia**

New York Tunes Service WASHINGTON - Treasury. Secretary Robert Rubin has told a congressional panel that he suspec-ted that much of the \$4.8 billion in loans sent to Russia last summer by the International Monetary Fund "may have been siphoned off im-

properly." It was the Clinton administration's first public statement supporting accusations that bailout money simply helped wealthy Russian oligarchs move britions of dollars to Switzerland and other safe havens.

Financial regulators note that a huge flow of dollars left Russia immediately after the Fund's cash was delivered to the Russian central. bank, suggesting investors were getting out before the ruble was permitted to collapse on Aug. 17.

The timing of Mr. Rubin's comments on Thursday was particularly significant because Russia's prime minister, Yevgeni Primakov, arrives in Washington next week on a mission to obtain the next installment of \$22 billion in loans.

It is unclear whether he will succeed, although there is growing pressure on the IMF to lend Russia just enough money to allow it to pay back several billion dollars that it owes to the Fund in coming months.

Mr. Rubin suggested that, despite endemic corruption and Mr. Primakov's seeming inability to put together an economic plan, the United States still had an interest in financially aiding the country.

the other students had already learned how to draw a slanting line, how to repeat in unison and how to count to 10. What could Yevgeni Primakov do?

"The small, very stocky boy, not the least intimidated, stood up and began to recite Pushkin, Mr. Demargaryan

'We were all stunned. We listened open-mouthed, and he kept reciting by heart. All of our achievements writing lines and little curlicues gradually

dimmed, became insignificant. Mr. Primakov pursued Arabic studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow. Later, he experienced family tragedy when his eldest son, Alexander, died of a heart attack as a soldier during a May Day parade in Red Square. His first wife, Laura, also died suddenly of a heart ailment, according to Ogonyok.

After stints as a journalist on state radio and television, Mr. Primakov moved to Pravda, the Communist Party newspaper, and in 1966 he was sent to the Middle East as a correspondent.

He reported on the ferment of Arab nationalism, including the final years of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. During his four-year tour, Hafez Assad of Syria and Saddam Hussein of Iraq were rising to power.

The region was a Cold War battle-

ground, and the Arab world a fertile ground for anti-Western regimes with whom the Soviet leadership sought

In his dispatches, Mr. Primakov wrote enthusiastically of the Arab struggle

"At that time, we all thought, mis takenly, that this was the way for the Arab people to socialism — bypassing capitalism," recalled Tomas Kolesnichenko, a friend of Mr. Primakov's for came clear to us that we would not succeed so we relaxed and had time to three decades who was also a Pravda

correspondent.
"We thought it was a new way, an example of the crisis of capitalism. It was our feeling."

The most searching questions now as Mr. Primakov governs Russia are about the economy and where he would take Russia if he became Mr. Yeltsin's suc-

Mr. Primakov has vowed repeatedly to rejuvenate the "real economy," and عياسان معجود

...

Religion of

many agree that Russia's brief boom in recent years was fueled by illusory investment in stocks and bonds, and not in investments in industry, as he wants. Mr. Primakov also forged a longstanding relationship with Saddam Hus-

sein, who had become second-in-command in Iraq.

"Even back then one could not miss some of Saddam Hussein's character. traits, which later on persisted and developed, when he became Iraq's only Mr. Primakov recalled in a memoir.

"Toughness, bordering on cruelty, strong willpower, bordering on stubbornness, unpredictability in decisions and actions, achieving a goal no matter what. He was extremely suspicious." Mr. Primakov and the Iraqi leader met

many times over the next 20 years as the Soviet Union became a major arms supplier to Iraq.
Mr. Primakov was also close to the

late Kurdish leader Mustafa Barzani and made many trips to the Kurdish enclave

in northern Iraq.
Mr. Primakov had close ties to the KGB during his years as a journalist.

Some have said he was a spy under the code name "Maxim." But others speculate that Mr. Primakov, while cooperating with the spy

agency, could not have been an actual KGB officer. As a Pravda correspondent, they say, he was reporting to the Communist

Party's policy-making Central Commit-tee, and thus probably was not employed directly by the security agencies. In Moscow, Mr. Primakov climbed

rapidly through the ranks as an academic, although he would not become known for major research publications.

He was eventually chosen to be director of the prestigious Institute for World Economy and International Relations, succeeding Alexander Yakovley, one of the architects of the economic and political reforms cham-pioned by Mr. Gorbachev. Mr. Primakov's natural caution

shaped his place in the political debate. He could be a progressive in his private talks with friends, but never to the point of going "over the brink," as one said.

#### BALLOON: British-Swiss Team Reaches Mid-Atlantic and Record for Flight Duration The Breitling Orbiter 3 is the third more news correspondents assembled

Continued from Page 1

help us reach the landing site quickly."

On Friday night the balloon was cruising eastward some 34,000 feet (10,363 meters) high in the core of a jet stream that was carrying it along at about 100

At least 20 attempts by balloonists to circle the earth have been made during the past decade alone and all but this one have fallen far short. Besides a place in the

ing at sea near the coast of Belize before

to circle the world nonstop.

The Breitling Orbiter 3 is the third more news correspondents assembled enthusiastically of the Arab s ln his radio message, Mr. Piccard disclosed that on Thursday he and Mr. Jones watch-making company. All three were having disclosed few details of the trip "At that time, we all though

had come to believe that they, too, would built by a British company, Cameron fail and would be forced to make a land- Balloons Ltd., and piloted by Mr. Piccard. The first, on Jan. 12, 1997, was forced to land after only a few hours of flight because of a kerosene leak in the answer questions and radio photographs crew capsule. The second balloon, in to the ground," he said. "But this time February 1998, ran out of fuel and had to we knew we had a good chance of making right," he said. But then Mr. Piccard. land in Burma after setting a new balloon who had been unable to sleep for days at endurance record. This time, helped by

some technical improvements and having gained experience, Mr. Piccard shattered all endurance and distance records and seemed certain to win through.

claim a \$1 million prize and the Bud-weiser Cup, offered by the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co. to the first balloonist were no longer despondent.

record books, the two balloonists stand to he had developed while practicing psy-

ading out over the Atlantic Ocean.
"The wind was slow and blowing in

the wrong direction, we were cold, very tired, and feeling sick. Nothing was goa time, used a technique of autohypnosis

Speaking by radio to a hundred or

## CLINTON: His Political Life Waning, the President Is Still Combative but Nostalgic, Too

Continued from Page 1

ident in private continues a campaign of seeking forgiveness from his family and

his band of loyal followers. There is no mistaking the sincerity of the president's regret about the foolishness of his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and his efforts to conceal it. Mr. Clinton's friends say. He knows that he has brought pain to his family and has he has brought pain to his family and has what keeps him going each day. He's got given license to former aides like George to get up each morning to run the world, Stephanopoulos and Mike McCurry to

question his fitness for office. But his anger is as deeply felt as his remorse, associates say. He believes that he has been the victim of a Republican stroy him personally, they say. He re- closures. Mr. Clinton has responded

serves particular venom for Kenneth consistently - with denial and denun-Starr, the independent counsel, and the Republican leadership of the House who together branded him with the indelible stain of impeachment. It is they, not he, Mr. Clinton has told friends, that history

will hunt down and condemn. "That's how he internalizes it in his mind," said one close associate of the president. "Many will differ, but that's Clinton camp did in reply, Mr. Stephan-

and that's how he does it." For most politicians, the impeachment inquiry and its revelations would have been devastating. But for Mr. Clinton, it was but the latest in a career of plot to undermine his authority and de- public indignities and embarrassing dis-

ciation of his opponents.

Mr. Stephanopoulos, in his new book about Mr. Clinton, "All Too Human," said that Mr. Clinton saw himself as the "target of unscrupulous enemies who would try to destroy him personally because they opposed his policies."

opoulos wrote - lying, intimidation, hitting back.

"In a weird way," said another close ally, "the excessive zealory of his opponents is what helps him and his supporters sleep at night. If they hadn't used his behavior to try to take over the country, there'd be no defending it." As time passes and the 2000 cam-

a less and less central role in the political world, except as the Democratic Party's most prodigious fund-raiser ever. The future of the first lady is of much more interest in Washington and New York today than that of Mr. Clinton. "I think he's now in the frame of mind

paigns get under way, Mr. Clinton plays

that pretty soon it'll be Gore's whole bailiwick." said a Washington political consultant who knows the president and vice president well. "He knows the torch will be passed soon and he wants to get as much done as he can. But he's also realistic it'll be Gore's whole banana to deal with soon. He realizes that he has no false delusions about that at all. He understands where he is and he accepts that pretty readily.

### U.S. and U.K. Planes **Bomb Iraqi Targets**

reaching great ocean depths.

during the past three weeks.

Agence France-Presse WASHINGTON - U.S. and British warplanes attacked Iraqi military radar and communications sites Friday after Iraqi aircraft entered the no-flight zone over southern Iraq, the U.S. military

"The strikes were in response to Iraqi aircraft violations of the southern no-fly zone," the U.S. Central Command said in a statement from its headquarters in Tampa, Florida.

The fighters hit a military radar site near Shuaybah, 290 miles (464 kilo-meters) southeast of Baghdad, and a communications site near Muzalbah, about 230 miles southeast of the capital, the command said.

## New-Generation, but Noisy, Australian Submarines Under Attack

By Michael Richardson

International Herald Tribute SYDNEY - It was touted as the most advanced nonnuclear submarine in the world - a silent, potent leviathan capable of staying submerged for 70 days and patrolling over long distances.

It was also billed as a major advance in developing a high-technology defense fatigue cracks. industry in Australia. Yet such has been the controversy over the new fleet of locally made

Collins-class submarines that the gov-

recently announced an independent review of the project to build six of the dollars (\$3.2 billion). Plagued by delays, technical prob-

erument that promised voters it would make defense more efficient. Two of the 72-meter-long (236-foot), that were not operating to their design 3.000-ton submarines have been accepacity.

ted into service by the navy on condition that certain improvements are made: a third is expected to get provisional ac-

ceptance soon. The navy has complained that the submarines are too noisy, that their computerized combat systems do not work as Britain in the 1960s. designed, their diesel engines are not reliable and their propellers are showing

One newspaper in October, quoting sources who had seen a report on the vessels by the U.S. Navy's undersea warfare center, said they "make about as ernment of Prime Minister John Howard much noise as a rock concert under

The project also is running 20 months vessels at a cost of 5 billion Australian behind schedule. As a result, the deputy navy chief. Rear Admiral Chris Oxenbould, told a parliamentary panel this lems and operational defects, Australia's month that Australia would have only single most expensive military project one fully operational but aging submahas become an embarrassment to a gov- rine until the end of 1999.

Next year, he said. Australia would

have to rely on two Collins-class vessels

A Labour Party government launched so that their public relations are very the project amid much faufare in 1987, poor," Defense Minister John Moore the project amid much fanfare in 1987. saying that a new generation of submarines specially designed for Australian requirements was needed to replace a fleet of Oberon-class vessels built in

Defense planners said that since Australia was a huge, sparsely populated island that was difficult to defend, its military needed a force of submarines that could deter any aggressor in the Asia-Pacific or Indian Ocean region by striking far from Australian shores. The Collins submarines were seen as

the underwater equivalent of the 36 U.S.-made F-111 bombers in the Australian Air Force. Eventually, the submarines are expected to be armed with U.S.-made cruise missiles. The prime contractor for the project is Australian Submarine Corp., based in

Adelaide, which is 49 percent owned by

Kockums Naval Systems, a unit of

Celsius AB of Sweden "There's been huge publicity about the progress of the submarines, so much Labour Party opposition leader Kim enhance the combat system.

said. "As a consequence of that, to give it credibility, I believe you need an independent group of significant standing to give their views on the maner."

He said the head of Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Malcolm McIntosh, a former British defense-procurement chief, and the former mining and steel boss of Broken Hill Pty., John Prescott, would review the project and report back to officials by June 30.

"The principal problems that we've got relate to the acoustic signature of the submarines — the noise they make — and also the combat system," Rear Admiral Oxenbould said before the review tainly serious, but they are fixable, and

we will fix them."

Beazley, who was defense minister at the time the Collins project began. Paul Dibb, a former senior defense

official, and Terry Roach, a former submarine officer who was responsible for naval force structure development, wrote in The Australian Financial Review last month that modern submarines were extremely complex weapons systems.

"And yet the sensationalist sections of

the media expect Collins to be totally free from faults from day one," they wrote. The computerized combat system on the new submarines is supposed to collect, process and analyze a vast amount of data gathered by sonars and other sensors, then use the data to enable the crew to control on-board weapons.

Mr. Dibb and Mr. Roach said that in was announced. "The problems are cer- retrospect, "Perhaps we should not have gone for the bold step that was the fully integrated combat system as specified Some analysis say that the extent of by the navy. But that is what was conthe problems has been exaggerated, pos-tracted for. Naturally, in the 12 years sibly because of fending within the De-since we ordered it, the technology has fense Department or to embarrass the made big steps forward. So it is time to

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Irene Hoogenbeut

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### ART

## City of the Future

New York Grapples With 'Civilized' Design

By Herbert Muschamp New York Times Service

EW YORK — Architecture or real estate, what's it going to be? Does New York piece of land on the west side of midtown Manhattan;

And these questions open up other questions in turn. Why must New York invest so much money, time and chitecture and real estate are the same officials regard this as a major dething? Wouldn't it be cheaper, not to velopment corridor. In January, Mayor mention more Rudolph Gi-

culturally invigorating, just to The goal is to set a put the city back on the map as a high standard for a center of archi-

major development. Conceived by Phyllis Lambert of the Canadian Center, a powerhouse of architectural culaddress the needs of a different city around the world. The winner will

receive \$100,000. the design and planning of cities for the 21st century. In New York, the goal is to set a high architectural stan-dard for an area that seems destined for major commercial development in

The last three decades have been a with an extraordinary appreciation for of California; Ben van Burkel of Amthe history it has passed through to get sterdam, and Jesse Reiser and Nanako there. But this has not been an era of Ponti's words, "to interpret the life of the inhabitants, transforming it into an expression of civilization and cul-ture." This competition offers an opportunity to interpret life on the threshold the city is now crossing.

The site — a tangle of railyards, storage depots, tunnel entrances and corridor stretching from Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River. It is bounded on its southern edge by 30th

Street, on the north by 34th. The finalists will have a hard time matching the robust appeal of this have room for both? These infrastructural display. Ringed along are the basic questions raised by the its western edges by parking lots, car Canadian Center for Architecture's repair shops and industrial lofts, the competition to redesign an important area is a frayed remnant of industrial New York, part of the city's vibrant cultural mix that now seems all the more precious as working class Man-

hattan fades further into memory. Developers have shunned the area energy in the vain pretense that ar- as commercially unviable. But city

> uliani proposed building a sports along with a re-Square Garden. The site also includes the James

ture in Montreal, the West Side project a new Penn Station, designed by Skidis the first in a series of competitions to more Owings & Mertill, along with the be held every three years. Each will Manhattan terminal for a new rail link to Kennedy International Airport.

With projects like these in the works, along with the strip's proximity The overall aim of the program is to the existing Javits Convention Censtimulate new ways of thinking about ter, it is hard to imagine a better site for demonstrating that despite their considerable differences, architects and real estate developers share a common stake in the future of New York.

The competition finalists were chosen from more than 150 submisgolden age for architectural preservation in New York. It is pleasing that elder statesman of the group; Peter Eisenman of New York; Thom Mayne sions from around the world. They Umemoto, part of a group of young opportunity for architects, in Gio architects who have come to be known as the blobmeisters for their work with advanced computers.

All the finalists have wrestled with

the tension between the design of individual buildings and the planning of the larger city. All have designed buildings during a period when city plan-ning, particularly in the United States, highway overpasses— is a 12-block has fallen into general collapse.

## Casting Light on a Baroque Sculptor

By Roderick Conway Morris International Herald Tribune

OME - Alessandro Algardi and Gianlorenzo Bernini, the two leading exponents of Roman baroque sculpture, were born within months of each other in 1598. But whereas Bernini's star has never set. Algardi, whom some of his contemporaries regarded as the superior artist, has sunk into comparative obscurity.

Algardi has never before had a show devoted entirely to his work, and "Algardi: The Other Face of the Baroque," which is principally curated by Jennifer Montagu (and continues at Palazzo delle Esposizioni until April 30), is something of a revelation.

Born and trained in Bologna, Algardi spent several years in Mantua, where he had the opportunity to immerse himself in the Gonzaga dukes' superb art col-lection, which included fine classical pieces, an experience that stood him in good stead for the rest of his career.

By the time Algardi got to Rome in 1625. Bernini's precocious brilliance and sparkling personality had won him the devotion of the Barberini Pope Urban VIII and a virtual monopoly on important commissions dispensed by the Vatican, Indeed, Bernini, was, as one Italian writer put it with suitably baroque extravagance, like a "dragon jealously watching over the Gardens of the Hesperides," making certain that no others could "make off with the golden apples of papal favor."

The new arrival did, nonetheless. manage to launch himself in Rome, initially by undertaking restorations of classical statuary, notably for Cardinal Ludovico Ludovisi - and one of these statues, now at the new Palazzo Aitemps museum, has been loaned to the show. Algardi even collaborated with Bernini on the rebuilding of a stame from an ancient torso, the former carving the missing limbs and the latter the head. Nor was Algardi entirely without supporters among his fellow artists, being befriended by his fellow Bolognese, the painter Domenichino and the Tuscan Pietro da Cortona.

Algardi's talents in due course became sufficiently evident for him to obtain major commissions for portrait busts of some of the prominent figures of the Roman scene. And the gathering here of surviving terra-cotta models and finished works from collections in Italy, England, Germany and Russia make abundantly clear why Algardi was so admired by

He was a supremely skilled modeler in clay and wax and, in the case, for example, of a pair of busts of the Pamphili Pope Innocent X, the terra-cotta model is clearly superior to the finished marble apparently executed by one of Algardi's expert studio assistants. And for all their restraint in contrast to Bernini's more flamboyant productions, Algardi's ability to convey the underlying bone structure of his subject's faces lends his portraits an uncannily immediate presence.

Algardi's consummate control over the three-dimensional realization of human anatomy is equally revealed in a very unusual survival - a life-sized, unfired clay model, coated with colored wax, of Christ on the cross, from the Vatican. This figure is positively star-tling in its lifelike, or rather deathlike, power and captures a horrifying vision of a tortured human being. It evokes an

overwhelming feeling of pathos.
While Bernini seems seldom to have thought otherwise than on the grand scale, Algardi, as a 17th-century commentator complained, "wasted" days on end making models of "putti, figurines, heads, crucifixes and omaments for jewelers." In fact, no other prominent Roman sculptor of the epoch expended such energy on smaller-scale works. Many of them, as Jennifer Montagu points out in the invaluable catalogue (which also provides a guide to other Algardi works not in the show), were probably intended to be cast in silver, but most of these have been lost, having been melted down in times of war

APPILY, a considerable number of models and bronze versions have come down to us. Once again the modeling is marvelous, the anatomical sense faultless and the dynamic impression of movement in figures and drapery breath-

The death of Bernini's champion, Urban VIII, in 1644, after a reign of more than 20 years, and the accession of the Pamphilj Innocent X was a setback for Bernini, yet did not prove of such instant advantage to Algardi as might have been expected. However, Innocent's nephew, Cardinal Camillo Pamphilj (who was soon to renounce the cloth and marry), did commission Algardi to design a lavish palace amid extensive gardens on a charming site on the Janiculum hill, now known as Villa Pamphilj.

The sculptor was not practiced as an



Algardi's bronze sculpture of Saint Michael overcoming the demon.

collaboration with Girolamo Rainaldi, although the overall conception re-mained Algardi's. The exterior facades of the villa incorporated numerous antique sculptures and the intricate stuccowork of the interiors also drew on Roman models. Algardi brought a sculptor's sensibility to every stage of complex, yet balanced and harmonious

the project, achieving an effect that is --- creating in the process a monument to architect and appears to have worked in the successful marriage of the coolly

classical and more sumptuous baroque. No visitor to Rome can fail to see and be impressed by Bernini's grandiose colomades embracing the vast space of the piazza before St. Peter's. Few in comparison ever set eyes on Villa Pamphili and its more humanely proportioned gardens, which are, however, a great favorite with the today's Romans and a fitting memorial to an artist who, as this exp hibition highlights, repays more attention than he has for a long time received.

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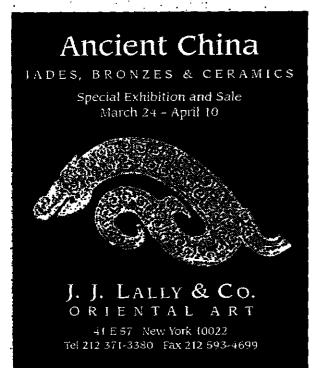
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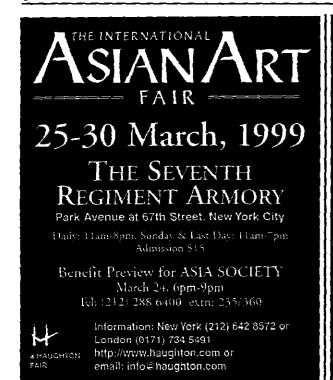
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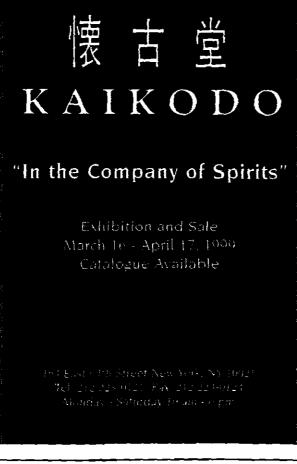




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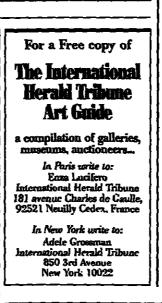
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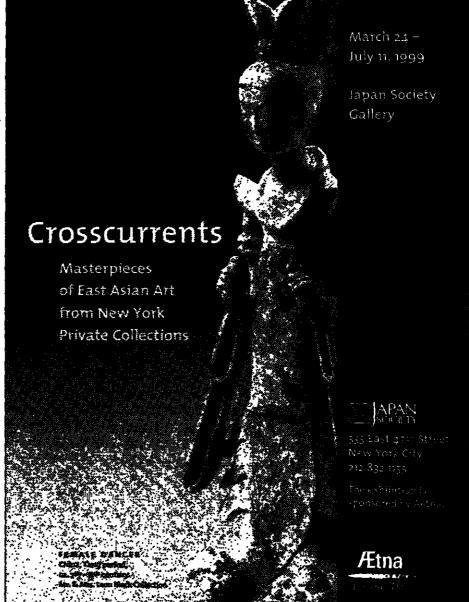


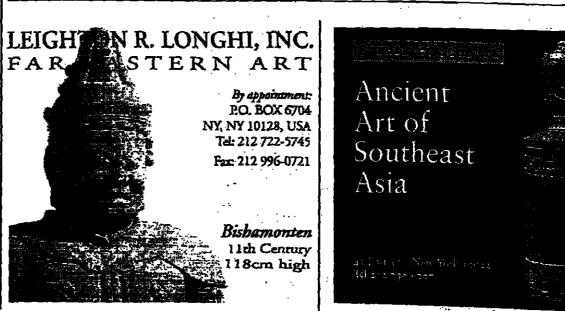
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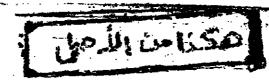
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## At European Fair, a Rage for Rarities

By Souren Melikian onal Herald Tribune

AASTRICHT, The Netherlands — The dealers might yet win the art market battle the European Fine Art Fair here in the southern tip of the Netherlands, where 183 dealers display their finest until Sunday, is a bit like viewing some huge

With a difference. The quality level is higher, the tension that auctions generate noticeably absent. This great show is a

As if the public had suddenly been made aware of the fact, there is an Alicein-Wonderland atmosphere about the still lifes, often of shells. Robert Noortfair. Anisabelle Beres of Paris, who sells 19th- and 20th-century art, talks about "a rage to buy. Everyone wants to take something." The souvenir syndrome? Not quite.

It is easy to see why a French collector wanted a self-portrait by Edouard Vuil-lard. Unusually incisive for the painter, it

Sheer beauty here has art historical significance like any instant impact on the most seasoned self-portrait by a master. And at collectors. At Johnny Van Haeften's, \$300,000, the price was not wild in one of these succumbed to the charm of today's market.

Similarly, one can understand the difficulty a Maastricht collector of Dutch pottery had in resisting the lure of a study of a 17th-century piece of delftware done by Eugene Delane in the 1880s. It was not cheap at \$10,000, but it might be years before he stumbles upon another watercolor of that subject.

But there were all the other buys that imaginary view of an ancient Roman seemed to be decided on the spur of the city in ruins seen in stormy light by moment — the \$15,000 still life in pastel François de Nome. Dated 1622, the picdone in the 1880s by Joseph Delattre in a ture was so far unrecorded. At \$100,000 Symbolist mode, which was acquired by a or so, it was deemed irresistible by the

men facing each other by Adolph Menzel grabbed by a collector from Texas for about \$25,000, and many more.

Richartz Museum building in Cologne, due to open in 2000.

Even institutional buyers, usually million volume was sold, again, at the

More unexpectedly, Old Masters traditionally sought after by collectors who carefully weigh their decisions sold just ing into the market where rarity is conas swiftly whenever an element of rarity as in evidence. Adriaen Coorte, active in Middelburg from 1683 to 1707, is an elusive artist who left a few minimalist Albrecht Neuhaus displayed a prestill lifes, often of shells. Robert Noort-viously unknown portrait of a lady in man displayed a small gem with a large price, in the area of \$700,000. Three shells handled like mysterious symbols glow in surreal light against a back-ground of deep darkness. Made rarer by a date (1697), the panel would look well

Sheer beauty here and there had an a bowl of flowers signed by Cornelis de Heem in the 1660s. The asking price, \$285,000, was no problem.

Dealers respond to this enthusiastic mood. When I stepped into his stand, Konrad Bernheimer seemed to be walking on air. With his selection, the Munich dealer certainly hit the bull's eye.

Bembeimer discovered a striking François de Nome. Dated 1622, the pic-

In this feverish amosphere of get-it-while-it-iz-time, some of the bigger lots went with unwonted celerity. On the opening night, Jacques de la Beraudiere and Philippe Cazeau promotly parted company with their \$700,000 "Rythme a la Tour" painted by Robert Delaunay in 1936. traiture. Rarity triggered the instant re-action but the price, about \$400,000, made the quick move quite remarkable.

cerned was made obvious by the uniform response it elicited across the fair, re-

court attire gently stroking a parrot, by François de Troy. Done around 1720-1730, the exquisite likeness painted in reverse on a glass pane 70 by 50.5 centimeters (28 by 20 inches) ranks among the earliest French examples of the technique imported from Italy and called verre églomisé. Still in its original ormolu frame, this was a sensational discovery. It sold within minutes of the opening for about \$100,000.

ONFINED to paintings, this "rage to buy" might at a pinch be accounted for by the soaring stock market and the overflow of cash. But it is also affecting the most rarefied areas, such as medieval illuminated manuscripts.

Jorg Gunther, a Hamburg dealer, sold on the opening night one of his great treasures, the "Arenberg Missal," ilmillion volume was sold, again, at the

So was a previously unknown Book of Hours by the Boucicaut Master, which was discovered by Heribert Tenschert, a German dealer who operates from Ramsen near Basel, Switzerland. The superbly preserved volume illuminated in Paris around 1410-20 is remarkably illustrated in a monographic study written by Gabriele Bartz, which was published at top speed by the dealer. This may have helped the sale of the \$1.2 million book within an hour of the opening on March 12. But it would hardly have been so effective were not the atmosphere at the fair so charged with electricity.

That rush to get in first was noticeable even in the sophisticated field of me-dieval, Renaissance and baroque objets d'art. While Tenschert was parting with his manuscript, Ian Dirven of Antwerp sold to a New York collector a Limoges painted-ename! salt cellar made by Pierre Reymond some time around 1545. The price was around \$22,500. Here the transaction had less to do with the stock exchange news than with the perfection of design and the signature.

Nor do Anthony Blumka's scores in the field directly relate to financial events. It takes a trained eye to look at a bronze lion-shaped pouring vessel of the aquamanile type from 13th-century North

Germany, not just the financial muscle required to pay \$300,000 or thereabouts. Paradoxically, interest in the field is growing precisely when the objects are treasures, the "Arenberg Missal," il-luminated in Flanders around 1524 by the Master of Charles V. Very large, it sculptural group of Mary and Joseph that has 20 column-width miniatures and is once formed part of a high altar in south-Belgian buyer; the gonache sketch of two architect who designed the new Wallraf- admirable. Seen at Sotheby's New York em Tyrol, probably in Brixen/Bressan-



A North German lion-form aquamanile with stylized cast mane.

one. Carved around 1520, it is believed to tinct Gallo-Roman flavor. Jerry Eisenbe the work of Hans Klocker.

grows about the destruction of mankind's historical heritage that accompanies uncontrolled excavations. Her-bert Kahn of Basel sold at the opening a while described as "Roman," has a dis-next?" Beres asked wistfully.

berg of New York, meanwhile, said that Most surprising perhaps, the boom he had his best fair ever. A new Canadian extended to antiquities, now increasingly under a shadow as public concern al marble female head carrying a \$285,000 price tag, and followed it up with several acquisitions made on the basis of photographs. Most dealers looked ecstatic by midweek. A few old-\$50,000 bronze figure of Aphrodite that, timers found it scary, "What happens

#### **BOOKS**

THE TIMES OF MY LIFE And My Life With The

By Max Frankel. 546 pages. \$29.95. Random House. Reviewed by Richard Kluger

> ONE can hardly conceive of a more daunting belletristic challenge than to undertake a full-scale autobiography when the subject's first 10 years were in large part spent desperately dodging the most horrific atrocity of his century. How to prevent the rest of the tale from dwindling 10 antichmax even when as in Max Frankel's case, he survived to become for a time the world's most influential

newspaperman?
Frankel, alas, becomes the storytelling. If "The Times of My Life" consisted of nothing more than its first 85 pages, recounting bow his German-Jewish family, kindly regarded in its "well-scrubbed" hometown near Leipzig, eluded Hitler's ever more vicious anti-Semitic crackdown — "fear created endless hallucinations of rescue," he writes - it would justify the whole volume.

His mother's indomitable struggie against mindless bureaucrats that won her and her only child a last-instant reprieve from the Nazi cauldron, his father's forced separation from them and endurance of the Soviet gulag and Max's own bravery as a terrorized child fugitive constitute a luminous new chapter in the Holocaust literature.

While he never forgot his ordeal after his family found refuge in New York in 1940, young Max declined to accept

his spiritual heritage as his
defining essence — "Jewish
is only a religion," he told his
displeased father — and fast grew into a passionately asimilated American and a his brilliant predecessor as exskilled user of his new na-'tion's idiom. The journalism bug bit him badly at Columbia University, where he ran the student daily and came to relsh "the chance to champion remedies for discovered wrongs" and "the reliable armor to shield an otherwise

debilitating shyness." On graduating, Frankel joined The New York Times, which he had served as campus stringer, and never worked anywhere else. Why would he when, in his estimate, "it frames the intellectual and emotional agenda of serious Americans?

For 40 years the quintessential Timesman, he had a front-row seat at the great political and diplomatic events of the age and backstage access to many of its leading players. His mission, as it evolved with his craft, was to help refine The Times's brand of journalism into "a narrative art, connecting past to future, cause to consequence."
Frankel takes us inside The

Times as he advances from night rewrite man, churning out high pressure copy on the sinking of the Andrea Doria, to his foreign postings in Vienna, Moscow and Havana during the loudest saber-rat-tling days of the Cold War.

Then on to the Washington bureau, covering the State De-partment and White House as U.S. policymakers slid into the deepening morass of Viemam; to Washington bureau chief when The Times nervily published the Pentagon Pa-pers, letting the public in on its government's long deceptions over Indochina; to potent tours of duty directing the plump Sunday edition, the editorial page and, from 1986 to 1994, the paper's entire news staff of 1,000 as executive editor.

In this crowning role he opened up the paper's concept of suitable front page news by inviting it to call attention to wide social currents, not merely discrete events of the day; encouraged coverage of gay issues; enlisted and pro-moted more women and blacks, and made the paper's graphics more eye-appealing.

Frankel is not above faulting The Times for past sins of both commission and omission. He long opposed his editors' slavish dependency on "official" news as defined by government spokesmen and instead championed analytical and interpretive reporting as often the surer route to the truth. He felt the paper's prose tended to be drab, its business coverage thin, its sports pages unima-ginative and its editorials steeped in "pious certitude."

What we miss here, for all his acute intelligence and exhibition of journalistic virtuosity, is a sense of drama and combat in Frankel's seemingly inevitable ascent to the pinnacle of his profession. To his credit he is no kiss-and-teller and only

briefly dwells on intramural stratagems, rivalries and flash points. He lionizes Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, The Times's former publisher, as a fierce but unpompous de-fender of the paper's tradi-tional embrace of quality even when it meant leaner profits, and deflates A.M. Rosenthal, ecutive editor, for brandishing an ego-driven and des-

potic managerial style. At its best "The Times of My Life" offers deft judgments of the world figures he encountered up close. He finds Khrushchev "the most robust politician of my time," behind whose mask of bluster I thought I saw a face of decency." He believes Richard Nixon "so despised his own warped nature that he found it difficult to perceive virtue in anyone else" and rates Hubert H. Humphrey "the most open-hearted and ill-disciplined of

our national figures."

It is a blessing that such a dedicated witness to our times was not exterminated in his youth along with so many less bucky.

Richard Kluger, author of "The Paper: The Life and Death of The New York Herald Tribune;" wrote this for The New York Times.

**NEW AUTHORS** Publish Your Work MINERVA PRESS

## The Life of Edgar Allan Poe, a Hall of Mirrors

By Michael Frank

EW YORK - Reviewing the life and career of Edgar Allan Poe can be a half-of-mirrors experience. There are as many Poes, it seems, as there are people to make, calumniate and rehabilitate his reputation.

There is Poe the hybrid of genius and charlatan whose literary criticism was "the most complete and exquisite specimen of provincialism ever prepared for the edification of men" (Henry James). There is Poe who possesses "the intellect of a highly gifted young person before puberty" yet whose "variety and ardor" of curiosity nevertheless "delight and dazzle" (T.S. Eliot). There is Poe the poet, Poe the pauper, Poe the mourner, Poe the alcoholic. There is Poe the working writer (less generously referred to as back) and frequent magazine contributor, and there is Poe the inventor of the detective story and the science-fiction tale.

Bringing up the actual man from the erosive, turbulent sea that has been his particularly ill-fated mixture of life and legend is no easy task, but it is one that, modestly, the Pierpont Morgan Library has set about doing with "Poe: The Ardent Imagination," to mark the 150th anniversary of his death.

Poe had one of the most unfortunate executorial experiences in the history of American letters. He entrusted his esthumous opus to the Reverend Rufus Griswold, whose blackening of Poe demonstrated "a sustained harred," as

Auden once put it. Auden characterized Griswold's treatment of Poe as subtle, but it's hard to see much that is subtle in a man who, albeit after praising Poe as a skilled writer of faultless taste, maligned him as erratic, unprincipled and irumoral; portrayed him flailing his arms and speaking to spirits; falsified letters to "prove" his treachery to his friends: alleged that he had deserted the army and had been expelled from a university, and intimated that he was the lover of his mother-in-law, who was also, as it happens, his aunt.

It is little wonder that upon Poe's death a representative obituary (in The New York Daily Tribune) described him as "pale even to ghastliness" and reported that his heart was "gnawed with anguish," thereby helping to inaugurate the mythic, tortured Poe whom Christine Nelson, curator of the exhibition, seeks to rein in with her presentation of manuscripts and memorabilia drawn entirely from the Morgan's collection. Nelson follows in the path of other rescuers of Poe, and her goal, she said, was "to look at Poe's importance in his own time, when he was a vibrant critic, a vocal magazine writer and a beloved teller of tales."

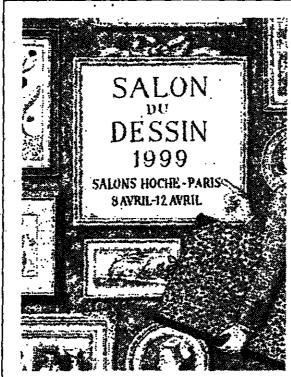
She was less interested in Poe the tragic hero. This Poe, it turns out, is not substantially represented in the Morgan holdings, which helps Nelson emphasize the productive over the pained Poe, but the latter does makes an appearance here nonetheless, in sections titled "Love and Death" and "Per-

On view is an autograph manuscript of "Tamerlane," the title poem in Poe's first book, which presents the Tartar conqueror's deathbed recollections of young love. Nearby are fair copies of "Ulalume" and "Annabel Lee."

The Morgan also displays a rare pamphlet copy of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue, "stained with brown spots like drops of blood. Nearby is "The Tell-Tale Heart," which first appeared in James Russell Lowell's short-lived magazine. The Pioneer. And hanging by itself, like a hallowed scroll, is "A Tale of the Ragged Mountains," one of several exceedingly curious autograph manuscripts Poe produced for reasons unknown to Nelson. In his clearest and most crisp adult hand, he wrote out the story on narrow sheets of paper, then joined them together with sealing wax into a long roll that resembles a mummy's bandage or toilet paper.

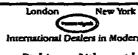
Michael Frank, a book critic, essayist and short-story writer, wrote this for The New York Times.

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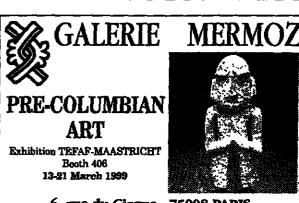


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#### EDITORIALS/OPINION

### Missile Defense Slowly

The Clinton administration has ca-pitulated to Republican pressure to begin building a missile defense system at the earliest technologically feasible date. It was a political decision, designed to shield the White House from accusations in next year's campaign that it was complacent about protecting American security.

Although the need to develop such a system is real, the rush to put one in place invites wasteful spending and could undermine critical arms reduction treaties with Russia that are no less important to America's defense. To avoid those mistakes, the White House must now manage this program with great care.

So far, the damage is mainly symbolic. But to prevent more serious harm, the administration will have to stand up to Republican simplifications on the issue in the campaign. President Rill Clinton has said he will decide in June 2000 whether a defensive system should be built right away or deferred to a later date. It seems unlikely that a working system will be ready by then, and Mr. Clinton must not let himself be stampeded into approving construc-

tion prematurely.

Proponents of a missile defense system no longer talk about Ronald Reagan's overly ambitious notions about space-based weapons that can knock out thousands of incoming Soviet missiles. At issue now is a much more limited, ground-based system meant to

lannched by unpredictable countries like North Korea. Since North Korea successfully tested a long-range missile last year, there has been a strong case for an accelerated effort to design an effective missile defense.

Intercepting and destroying an in-coming missile before it descends through the atmosphere is a daunting technological challenge. The target is small and traveling at 15,000 miles (24,000 kilometers) an hour, much faster than a bullet. It must be hit accurately and reliably. All but two of 15 tests so far have failed. Research efforts should be intensified.

The past week's congressional votes pushing the program will make it harder to work with Moscow on nuclear weapons issues because the House and Senate in effect declared that arms control now has become a secondary consideration for the United States. A limited missile defense system would not be very effective against a country like Russia, which still has nearly 7,000 nuclear warheads that can reach the United States, but convincing Moscow of that will now be much more difficult.

The administration should have held its ground on this complex and serious issue, but it can still exercise restraint. An expensive system of unproved reliability should not be built, even with an election bearing down on Washington. -THE NEW YORK TIMES.

### **Overselling China**

. The Clinton administration likes to tout its policy of engagement with China, but a different kind of engagement has been oddly missing from its reaction to reported Chinese espionage. You would expect President Bill Clinton. Vice President Al Gore and other stewards of America's nuclear secrets to be indignant -- why not angry? -- at what China has done. But, faced with evidence of a serious breach with potentially damaging consequences to U.S. security, their chief response has been to dodge blame and make ex-cuses. It is demeaning. "Well, first of all, on the law enforcement matter that you raise, please keep in mind, that happened during the previous administration," Mr. Gore told CNN. "That happened back in the 1980s."

Everyone understands that governments spy on each other and that the alleged theft of nuclear secrets did indeed take place before Mr. Clinton's term. But people also expect their leaders to make clear, when such a theft is uncovered, that they find such behavior intolerable, and to take immediate

steps to prevent a recurrence.
Instead, what followed the initial suspicions was a bureaucratic, almost lackadaisical response best illustrated by a letter to The Washington Post from former Energy Secretary Federico Peña. Mr. Peña "completed an extensive review," briefed many officials, didn't he just slam shut the door?

The administration claims that it responded adequately, yet in the past week or so, as the scandal has mushroomed, it has announced many more steps to improve security at federal weapons labs. Either the first steps were not enough or the new measures are excessive; it would seem that the administration cannot have it both ways.

The long interval between suspicion and real action is especially discouraging because it seems part of a larger pattern. The Clinton administration has been so eager for warm relations with China's Communist regime that it has raised suspicions that it will pay too high a price for such friendship, including downgrading America's friendship with Taiwan, slighting its alliance with Japan, muting its concern about human rights, and, possibly, playing down the significance of alleged espionage.

Mr. Clinton and his advisers over-

sold the benefits and potential benefits of their policy of engagement, heralding great progress where little has taken place. Now that China's human rights record is revealed to have not improved at all, for example, there are the predictable alarms that the relationship is deteriorating, that momentum has been lost. Two influential senators,

Helms of North Carolina and Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, now urge that China not be admitted to the World Trade Organization because of its hnman rights record, alleged espionage and other matters. The administration a "commercially viable" deal can be struck, as administration officials have

But there is a legitimate fear that the next month, will accept an inadequate deal and call it - what else? - "commercially viable." It would be another way of doing long-term damage to U.S. national interests.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

#### has argued that the WTO decision should be made on its own merits, which is right as far as it goes, meaning that if

administration, eager to salvage something from its policy of engagement when Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visits

### **Endgame for Samaranch**

Perhaps the Olympic movement should create an event for those who excel at just getting by. If it did, Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, surely would have won a gold medal this past week. Despite his declaration of victory over bribery and corruption at the close of the organization's meeting on Thursday, the actions and reforms ratified were quite meager.

True, there was some progress. Six IOC members who had taken bribes were defrocked, and site selection for the 2006 Olympics was insulated from corruption by creating an impartial panel to pick two finalists for the full IOC to choose from.

But Mr. Samaranch, who has presided over the mess, declined to resign and instead orchestrated an overwhelming vote of confidence from the committee that he has largely as-sembled. His minions punted when the IOC agenda turned to lasting reform

that can prevent another outbreak like the \$1 million bribery machine that helped Salt Lake City win the 2002 Winter Games. The meeting merely approved plans to create an ethics commission, to be appointed by Mr. Samaranch, and a structural reform body, to be headed by Mr. Samaranch, raising doubts about how vigorously and independently either body will perform. Only a few members of either body have been named, suggesting no great haste to get started.

Crafting measures that bring trans-parency in business dealings, accountability and democracy in decisionmaking should not be an ardrous task. These bodies ought to have their recommendations ready for the IOC's June meeting in Seoul. This meeting will also provide an appropriate mo-ment for Mr. Samaranch, long a coddler of the ethically impaired, to make a graceful exit.

-THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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## Thailand Has Put the Economic Crisis to Good Use

B ANGKOK — I last visited Thailand 15 months ago when its economy was in a tailspin. The country was on its way into the history books as the first domino of the 1997-1998 global economic crisis. What a difference a year makes! Thailand is still not out of the woods financially, but the situation has stabilized and the country is on a growth path again.

What is most striking is the degree to which Thai political reformers, who were hit hard by the economic crisis. now view it as an enormously useful turning point for their country.

There is a notion floating around that countries like Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia were all doing just fine until the ugly, greedy forces of globalization disrupted them. This is pure nonsense. They were all accidents

waiting to happen.

Thais will freely tell you today that they had a corrupt, crony-capitalist system with no transparency, a plethora of insider dealings, a less than democratic regime and a public often living beyond its means. And what the global economic crisis did was expose the rot and force changes - democratizing changes - that the traditional elite families and power brokers were resisting.

By Thomas L. Friedman

"We do not see the IMF as the enemy," explained Kavi Chongkittavorn, executive editor of the newspaper The Nation. "We see it as a baton forcing us to change our society in some very radical ways, which never could have been done within the traditional Thai framework, or at least could not have been done quickly.

"If you look at the political changes over the past 18 months, what has happened in Thailand is a miracle. In the 1860s Thailand was forced open by the British, who wanted to colonize us, and that external pressure was used to modernize Thailand. Today the external forces of globalization are being used to push democratization."

Since September 1997, Thailand has passed the most democratic constitution in the country's history - including a freedom of information act, which has set loose the press hounds on every government department -- as well as I 1 economic reform bills, including this month's new laws for bankruptcy and

corporate restructuring.
So many of the Asian Tigers never had real bankruptcy laws because

everyone was just growing. They were like towns with only maternity wards and no funeral homes. But corporate funeral homes are critical to clean up a rotten economy, and now Thailand has them as well as a whole new set of laws banning insider dealings and vote-

buying by officials.

'The economic problem here was political in nature,' said Mr. Kavi. and it could not be solved without changing these bad politicians. Without this external pressure we could never have broken the hold of 50 families over the Thai economy, we could never have reformed the banking system so quickly.

"We underestimated globalization, we thought we were at the top of the world because we had escaped colonization. We had resisted the British. so who needs to worry about globalization? We were wrong, and now we are catching up."

by lots of political wrangling, but in the end they are being "built on a real political consensus," says a Thai investment banker, Teera Phutrakul.

Still, elements of the traditional bureaucracy and powerful families are fighting a rear-guard action that will

gain momentum if the economy does not start growing faster. Growth in 1998 was a negative 8 percent, but is expected to bounce back to a positive 1 percent in 1999. There is relatively little unemployment, because many people fell back on their villages or family networks and are sharing jobs to get by. But there has been a sharp drop in incomes.

If robust growth does emerge, though, the Thai example could be hugely influential in Asia. It would declare that the country that reformed its economic and political system the furthest and deepest enjoys the most stable recovery and attracts the most foreign investment.

You can bet that the autocrats in China, Vietnam, Burma, Malaysia and Indonesia will all be watching. "If we can succeed economically, we can be like a reverse domino in the political sphere," said Mr. Kavi. "The lesson will be that Thailand survived the crisis the best because it adopted the best democratic reforms. If that happens, and I am Burma, I would be worried. If I am Malaysia, I would be worried. If I am Viemam, I would be wonied. If I am China, I would be worried.

The New York Times.

### This Policy Amounts to Appeasement of North Korea

HOUSTON — Hold the Tuesday's agreement between the United States and North Korea does not validate the success of the Clinton administration's North Korea policy. Indeed, since the agreement calls only for the right of American investigators to visit one suspect nuclear site, one that the North Koreans have had a year to sanitize, it probably doesn't even get U.S. policy "back on track." It is a pity, because taxpayers

will have to pay for this small concession with hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of food and oil. Soon they may be asked to pay even more simply to get North Korea to comply with international agreements.

The only positive thing that could be said about the latest agreement is that it will probably avert a short-term crisis. But at what price? It will make the United States even more reluctant to adopt a more muscular approach and thus could actually increase the risk of war on the Korean Peninsula. And the North Koreans may well conclude that their bad behavior

will continue to be rewarded. In sum, the Clinton administration's approach to North Korea, a policy of appease-ment, continues to fail.

William J. Perry, the former defense secretary, who was a first-rate public servant and is the president's special adviser on North Korea, has just ad-'What they're doing is moving forward on their nuclear weapons. They seem to have other programs under way that are part of a nuclear effort." There is a long history of

broken promises from North Korea. In 1985 it became a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but it repeatedly refused

WASHINGTON — I had lunch recently with the

man I think may be the

greatest living American. He is Mike Mansfield, the former

Senate majority leader and ambassador to Japan.

Beginning six years ago,

when he was a mere lad of 90,

several of the reporters who

had covered him over the

years have joined him for

birthday lunches at the invi-

tation of his great friend, the

Washington attorney and former Senate aide Charles

Ferris. Each year we feast on

the wisdom and simple goodness of this magnificent

Consider just the bare out-

lines of the journey he has

traveled from his birth in the

Bowery when the century was

only three years old.

He fibbed about his age to join the navy at 14 and later

served in the army and the

marines, including a stint in China that fed a lifelong fas-

He went to Montana and

worked in the copper mines,

but met a young schoolteacher

who recognized his excep-

tional qualities and encour-

aged him to pursue an edu-

cation. After 68 years of mar-

riage to Maureen Hayes, that

teacher, his devotion is un-

lature recently proposed erect-

ing a statue of Mr. Mansfield

in Helena, he replied: "If it's

just me, no; if it's Maureen

He was elected to the House

in 1942 and to the Senate 10

years later. He served as

Democratic majority leader

When the Montana Legis-

cination with Asia.

diminished.

and me, O.K."

By James A. Baker 3d

to sign the safeguards agreement required of all parties. It did not agree to sign until 1992, after it had seen the effectiveness of American military might in the Gulf. Still, from 1992 to 1994, North Korea refused to permit some international inspections required under that safeguards agreement. In 1994, the Clinton admin-

istration changed the Reagan-Bush policy from one of resolve and strength to one of accommodation, over the unstated objections of the government of South Korea.

That year, the United States entered into a pact called the Agreed Framework under which North Korea promised to stop developing nuclear weapons and the United States and its allies, South Korea and Japan, promised to reward North Korea with hundreds of thousands of metric tons of oil each year and with a \$2 billion light-water nuclear reactor, all at no cost.

The Agreed Framework, in effect, rewarded North Korea for its promise to allow inspections at some unspecified point years down the line - the very same inspections that it was obligated to permit under the international agreement it had signed two years earlier. Now, according to Mr. Perry, we see that North Korea was continuing to develop nuclear

weapons all along. Once again, This did not have to happen. When evidence was discovered, from 1992 to 1994, that North Korea was moving forward on nuclear weapons, Washington panicked, bowing to North Korea's threats to turn Seoul into a "sea of fire" and changing U.S. policy by 180 degrees. Instead

Everyone Should Meet Mansfield

By David S. Broder

century, from 1961 to his re-

tirement in 1976, and then

began a second, equally dis-

tinguished career as ambas-

sador to Japan from 1977 to 1988, establishing a longevity

Still lean and erect as a cow-

hand, with a keen memory for

names, dates and places, Mr.

Mansfield can bring to life his

own intimate experiences

from the mining camps in the

frontier West to the maneu-

verings that produced the great

civil rights bills of the 1960s

man Sachs, the investment

bank, he reads five newspa-

pers a day and meets with a

steady stream of officials from

around the world. His judg-

ments are acute. In a few,

well-phrased sentences, he

can define the differences be-

tween Al Gore and Bill Brad-

ley, and tell you why one

would make a better president

about China's likely intentions

for the next decade, and de-

liver an unrehearsed, 10-

minute discourse on the polit-

down to its occupation of a reef off Palawan, which he help-

fully identifies as "the west-ermost of the Philippines."

And then, being the modest

Mike Mansfield he always has

been, he adds this commen-

tary on his own performance:

made him loved as much as he

His hallmark, what has

"A lot of wind.

longer than anyone else in this is respected, is his kindness

than the other.

As a senior adviser to Gold-

and the tragedy of Vietnam.

record in that post as well.

pursued sanctions in the UN Security Council, beefed up U.S. forces on the Korean Peninsula more than it did, and begun planning a regional anti-

missile defense system. Most important. Washington should have reminded the North Koreans that it kept the peace in Europe for more than 40 years against an overwhelming Soviet conventional force and did so by virtue of a strategic nuclear deterrent. And it should have told them that it fully intended to honor its security agreements with South Korea and Japan, and that, if necessary, it would

not rule out the use, again, of nuclear deterrence. This is a message North Korea would have understood. The need is to return to a policy that

contains all of these elements. Mr. Perry has said he will resent the president with two eparate recommendations. One will suggest a path to follow if North Korea agrees to cooperate. The other will consist of sterner steps to be taken if North

Korea rejects the proposals. As far as the first recommendation goes, it is hard to fathom how anyone could put credence in any agreement by

Japan, continued its belligerent thetoric toward South Korea and blackmailed the United States into paying for the opportunity to carry out inspections.

Mr. Perry's second recom-mendation stems equally questionable. Why should North Korea take seriously any threat coming from this administra tion about sterner measures. given the many times in foreign policy and security matters that its thetoric thas not been matched with resolve?

The writer was secretary of state under President George North Korea, particularly since Bush. He contributed this comit has recently fired missiles over ment to The New York Times.

### Kosovo: Congress Belongs on Board

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — The early talk is of foreign policy becoming something of an albatross around the Democrats' neck in the 2000 presidential election. China, Kosovo, Saddam, the works. But it pays to look at a couple of other matters that tend to complicate

the picture.
One is the latest, quadrennial, always acute poll of public opinion and foreign policy by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. Taking the temperature toward the end of Bill Clinton's impeachment ordeal, the poll policy approval rating higher than any that Ronald Reagan or

George Bush ever enjoyed. Not that Mr. Clinton has earned it all by his own heroics. He has surely floated on what the Chicago report, directed by John Rielly, describes as a general feeling of prosperity and the United States should have security. It may be unearned

and self-effacement. In the

days when he ran the Senate.

he relished coming onto pro-

grams like "Meet the Press,"

listening to us pompous jour-nalists formulate endlessly

verbose questions, and answering "Yep." Or "Nope."
And then he would grin mis-

chievously as we scrambled

he astonished the Japanese by

serving tea to his guests him-self. He loves to tell the story

of the Japanese Fulbright

scholar who was entertained in

this fashion before leaving for

the United States, and returned

for a similar visit a year later.

"I must tell you," the guest said, "that when I told my wife

the ambassador himself had served me tea, she fainted!"

finding exactly the right word.

When the conversation at lunch turned to American for-

eign policy, he called it "haphazard." That is better

than 3,000 words from Henry

Kissinger.

And it is about as tough as

self be. He does not go over-

board, either in praise or in

condemnation, so when he

says that Governor Marc

vice presidential candidate,

He is a monumental figure

who adamantly refuses to

write his memoirs. You will

find no entry for him in the current "Who's Who." You

leave his company thinking

that a nation that produces

such a citizen just might make

The Washington Post.

it through another century.

you know he means it.

Or he can take a question Mr. Mansfield ever lets him-

ical geography and national Racicot of Montana would psychology of that country, make a wonderful Republican

He has an uncanny knack of

When he was ambassador,

for a follow-up.

political income for Mr. Clinton, but it is income all the same. The report found most Americans supporting a policy of "guarded engagement" in the world, moderating their enthusiasm for an active world role

use of U.S. troops abroad.

This dovetails with the pained but finally positive approval in the House of Representatives on March 11 of the Clinton administration's plan to send American troops into embattled Kosovo in a peacekeeping role. For anyone with even a faint

struggle over "war powers" during the Vietnam War, the daylong, full-House Kosovo debate was a political landmark. It put a congressional imprimatur on a president's policy dealing with the always tender issue of sending American sol-

diers on a war mission. It also produced a victory for a Democratic president's chancy intervention initiative in a Congress controlled by the Republican opposition. The very definition of bipartisanship, you might say.

You would be wrong. Mr. Clinton won the votes of 90 percent of House Democrats but only of 20 percent of House Republicans. A change of six votes would have cost him the hammer of his Kosovo policy. As it was, the approval was

laden with a dozen or more demands for presidential state-ments on the U.S. interest, cost, exit strategy and the like. These demands augur plenty of pres-idential-congressional friction as time goes on. The new House speaker, J.

Dennis Hastert, set a quiet but fair-minded course that, in the otherwise partisan circum-stances, was bound to dissatisfy fellow Republicans looking for

a campaign issue. He did not announce a leadership position before the debate, and reserved expression of his personal support for the Clinton proposal until he voted. He said his first concern was

to deal Congress in on the useof-force issue after many years; with a reluctance to support the 'of House silence. But the first' use of U.S. troops abroad: \_\_\_\_\_\_concern of the DeLay-Armey brigade was plainly to embar-rass the president. Many Democrats clearly re-

call their party's Vietnami era passion to have Congress accept a constitutional responsibility for war-making authority. But in this instance they feared that, the votes to sustain administration policy were not there.

Hence the Democrats' complaint that the "timing" of the debate "undercut" the president's diplomacy. The administration took the same line, at the cost of advertising its scant confidence in its chosen policy.

From a constitutional point of view, the case for a timely congressional debate to scruunize American participation in a military intervention is the stuff of unpromising argument. But this time the House quickly found its way to the device of a condition-laden resolution that, although nonbinding, has its political impact.

Politically, the fallout of any intervention can be uncertain. But it cannot fail to help a president if he has a coherent policy, if he consults Congress as a matter of course and if he goes to the people - if he leads. He should recognize the

policy value of being able to show popular support, and the political value of doing everything possible to make Congress a partner. It should be accepted that meaningful consultation is in the essence of making foreign policy. The Washington Post.

### IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Equal Penalty PARIS - A "Daily Chronicle"

leader on the electrocution of Mrs. Place at New York, says : "While the law of capital pun-ishment exists, it should be carried out without fear, favor or distinction of sex. By adhering to this simple and impregnable position, Governor Roosevelt has set a most admirable example to American officials and deserved the gratimde of all men who admire honest courage wherever it may be displayed."

1924: Radio Monopoly

BERLIN - Radio bootlegging President Erbert issued a decree abrogating the inviolability of persons who are suspected of listening-in to what the Government intends to be a monopoly. The President Decree deare using unlicensed radio sets Allied Control Council.

without official approval or payment of the fee. When Radio first came into use in Germany a few months ago, the Government decided not to allow it to go to such a widespread extent as in America, where it was considered to be merely a fad. In Germany it was destined to become an important branch of Government communications.

#### 1949: The West Mark BERLIN — The Western Allies,

invalidated the Soviet mark intheir sectors of Berlin and introduced the stable and increasingly valuable West mark as the sole legal money. They said this? is the latest crime in Germany. is the forerunner of other measures to strengthen the economy to a point which will convince. the Russians that their economic blockade of the city has failed. Today's monetary action comcides with the first anniversary. clares that thousands of persons of the Russian walkout from the

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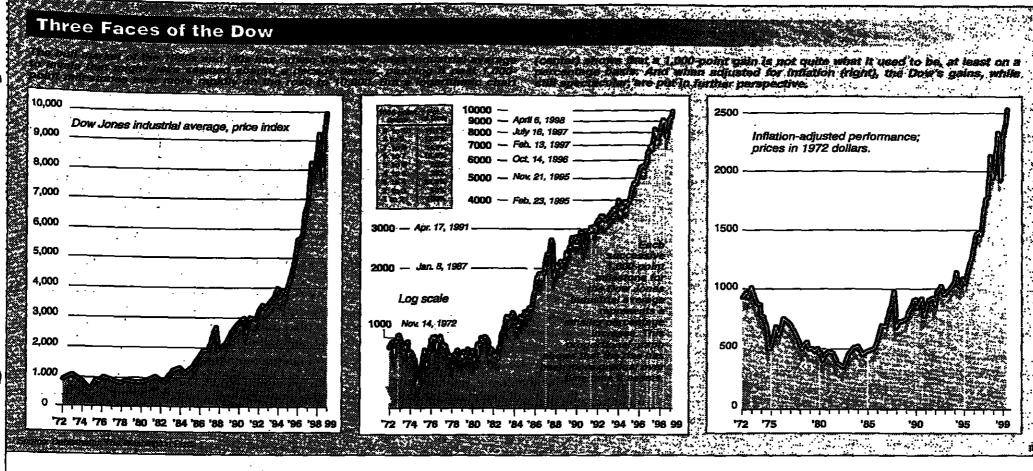
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## In the Age of Technology Stocks, Does the Dow Still Matter?

By Edward Wyatt

NEW YORK --- When Americans talk about the stock market, they talk about the Dow Jones industrial average. For roughly a century, "How'd the market do today?" has been answered with a reference to the Dow.

Yet for all its longevity and accuracy as a barometer of the progress of the stock market, the 30 stocks of the Dow industrial average have, in recent years, fallen behind. Since the beginning of 1995, the Dow index has lagged a few percentage points each year behind the returns of the Standard & Poor's 500, the broader index that most professional investors on Wall Street use as a benchmark for their investments.

The Dow has fallen even further behind the Nasdaq composite index, rich with the technology stocks that lately have been the market's biggest gainers. Even the unwieldy Wilshire 5000, the universe of stocks which, despite its name, encompasses more than 7,000 companies based in the United States, has climbed at a rate more than I percent per year faster than the Dow.

All of which raises the question: Does the Dow matter anymore? "The Dow has come in for a lot of criticism for a long time," said Steven Leuthold, a market analyst whose research firm, Leuthold

Group, is based in Minneapolis. "People complain that it has a the late 19th century, when the index was first compiled and the limited number of stocks, they complain about the way the index is calculations had to be done with pencil and paper. calculated," based on the numerical price of stocks rather than the total market value of the companies in the index.

"But I think the rather amazing thing is how accurately, over time, it has tracked a broader index like the S&P 500," Mr. Lenthold

The Dow failed in its struggle to stay above 10,000 points. Page 10.

added. "There are times when the two get out of sync. But we use it because it is still the first thing people refer to when they talk about how the market did today."

The Dow is a price-weighted index, meaning that high-priced stocks, like International Business Machines Corp., at around \$170 a share, have more of an effect on the index than do low-priced stocks. That is true even though a company with a low share price but substantially more shares in circulation could be worth more. In contrast, the S&P indexes are weighted by market cap-

italization, meaning that the indexes are most influenced by companies whose total stock market value — derived by multiplying their share price by the number of shares in circulation - is greatest. A system such as the Dow's price-based index was necessary in

Now, the index is calculated by dividing the sum of the prices by a fractional divisor, currently about 0.23. That means that each \$1 change in the price of a Dow stock moves the index by about 4.34 points. From a statistical perspective, the Dow is among the most efficient indexes. It uses only 30 stocks, which account for close to onequarter of the stock market's total value. The S&P 500's components, which together account for about four-fifths of the market's value,

are, by comparison, much closer to a full census than a sampling. Recently, critics of the Dow have argued that the older index lags too far behind. From the beginning of 1995, when the latest leg of the stock market's upward march began, through the end of 1998, the Dow climbed 24.3 percent annually, compared with 27.8 percent for the S&P 500. The difference stems primarily from the absence of technology giants intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. from the Dow.

Over longer periods, however, the indexes track quite closely. Since the beginning of 1980 through the end of last year, the Dow gained 13.4 percent per year, compared with 13.6 percent for the S&P 500. Including reinvested dividends, a measure known as total return, an investment in the two indexes would have come even closer - an average annual gain of 17.72 percent for the Dow industrials, versus 17.65 percent for the S&P 500.

### **Foreigners** In Japan Phone Deal

AT&T and BT Set to Take Stakes in Japan Telecom

Bloomberg News
TOKYO — AT&T Corp. and British
Telecommunications PLC are in the final stages of talks to buy a stake in Japan Telecom Co., an official of the Japanese company said Friday.

BT will buy a 20 percent stake in Japan Telecom, Japan's fourth-largest phone company, and AT&T will buy 10 percent, for a combined value of about 150 billion yen (\$1.28 billion), Nikkei English News reported, without citing sources. AT&T and BT declined to com-

A Japan Telecom spokesman who asked not to be identified said that the talks were in the final stages and that art agreement would probably be reached by March 31.

Shares of Japan Telecom soared 200,000 yen, or 16.4 percent, to 1.42 million yen Friday before trading was suspended.

The alliance would make Japan Telecom the first Japanese telecommunications company in which foreign companies hold a major stake.

The talks come as companies in the industry seek alliances in an effort to compete with Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp.

"The tie-up would give more benefits to AT&T and BT, rather than Japan Telecom, in the shorter term," Shinji Moriyuki, an analyst at Daiwa Institute of Research.

It would enable AT&T and BT to participate in Japan's next generation of cellular phone services, which Japan Telecom is developing through a joint venture with Nissan Motor Co. and Air-Touch Communications Inc. of the U.S.

The venture, called IMT-2000 Planning Corp., needs as much as 600 billion yen to start the new phone services, Japan Telecom said in December. Japan Telecom has a 40 percent stake. IMT-2000 Planning is now capital-

ized at 200 million yen. Japan Telecom, through IMT-2000, is seeking to become one of only three carriers that the government will license to provide next generation cellular



Sony is updating its PlayStation with a new chip.

## Sony's Chip Takes Industry by Storm

By John Markoff New York Times Service

SAN JOSE, California - On a giant video screen, a lifelike rubber duck splashed about in a bathtub fleeing from a pursuing submarine. Suddenly the drain opened

and both were swept into the resulting whitipool.

What made this demonstration Thursday by Sony Corp.
notable was that the scene, rendered with almost perfect realism down to each reflection in each ripple in the tub, was not a movie but an interactive video game that signaled a new level of computing power for everyday consumers. Sony's PlayStation II, though still more than a year away

from U.S. store shelves, is creating a stir in Silicon Valley because it is the first machine to deliver graphics that until now could be produced only by supercomputers — and at prices that will put it under Christmas trees in 2000.

Shown for the first time in the United States, to 1,000

software game developers, the machine suggested that the state of the art in computing is moving from the aisles of CompUSA to the shelves of Toys 'R' Us. of CompUSA to the sheaves of 1078 k to 22. PlayStation II, which Sony says it expects to sell for substantially less than \$500, is perhaps the most striking example yet of a coming generation of powerful computer processors that are not designed for traditional computers. Instead, they are engineered to concentrate all their contests and the present on performing highly specialized tasks.

siderable power on performing highly specialized tasks.

The new Sony machine will not process text or cal-

See SONY, Page 10

#### **ECONOMIC SCENE**

### Signs of Life in Asian Prices

For Europe and the U.S., the Free Ride May Be Over

By Philip Bowring Special to the Herald Tribuna

is a question worth asking at a time when the deflation threat in Asia and Europe and zero-inflation nirvana in the United States inventories in these countries. have become received wisdom.

Most quoted statistics compare year-on-year prices. But a look at month-on-month data suggests that, led by Asia, goods price deflation has already bottomed out, and the impact is just

beginning to wash up on American shores.
Start with U.S. trade data released on
March 11. The government said that overall
import prices in February were down 3.9 percent from a year earlier and nonoil imports were down 2.2 percent. The import numbers have been almost as big a contributor to the low inflation data as the much vannted technology-driven gains in productivity.

[On Thursday, the U.S. government re-

But look a little closer at the import price data, and the figures show that nonoil import prices stopped falling in September and have since stabilized. Oil prices fell again in February but spot prices have recently picked up, so import prices should show a significant rise in the next two months. Look even more closely at the data and two more fluings become clear. Prices of goods imported from Asia are on the rise, and only weak commodity prices have kept the overall import price index stable. Prices for automotive imports have risen five months in a row and now stand slightly above year-ago levels. Consumer and capital goods prices have risen in recent months, though not enough to wipe out year-on-year declines.

turnaround. Prices for imports from Japan have risen 2.2 percent since October. Those ONG KONG — Asia led the world from Asian newly industrialized countries into deflation, but is it just beginning to lead the world out of it? That 17 months. Though those prices were still down 7 percent on the year, this accords with the flattening of domestic prices and smaller

The data are not saying that an overall recovery of demand in Asia is under way, pushing up export prices. However, the yen's partial recovery, the firming of the Korean won, Taiwan dollar and Thai baht, and a tailing off of inventory adjustment are now being felt.

Taiwan's exports rose last month for the first time in several months. Also, in some Asian markets, auto and consumer durables demand has turned the corner, even though investment spending continues to decline. In the U.S. market, voluntary import restraints on steel and other products may check the volume of imports and push up prices.

[On Thursday, the U.S. government reported that the trade deficit expanded to a mand for raw materials has been evident this record \$17 billion in January, as economic year, bringing narrower trade surpluses. The weakness around the world pushed American exports down for the fourth straight month, while imports surged to record highs.]

The based commodity index has risen 1.4 percent based commodity index has risen 1.4 percent and the post transfer of the percent month and is now back to December 1. in the past month and is now back to December 1998 levels. There was a false dawn for commodity prices last year, but even if prices go no higher, export prices may have bottomed in the first weeks of the year under the impact of Brazil's currency devaluation. If the oil price bounce holds, it will also have a

knock-on impact.

Nor is it just an export price phenomenon.

China's consumer prices rose 1.3 percent in February, led by food. Though the index remains below year-ago levels, the deflationary spiral may be at an end. Massive overcapacity and inventories should prevent any surge in manufactured goods prices but the worst of deflation looks to be over.

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Euro Values

March 19 . Other Dollar Values

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12.5866 36.899 5.4386 6.00 1.7891 0.72041.771.12 201.58 180.30 152.19 10.5186 60.1527 8.866 9.7813 2.9165 1.172,887.26 32861 299.95 249.11 25.5186 (a)1577 (3.64 2.761) 2.7614 (3.74) 2.2415 (3.74) 3 

#### 3i Launches Bid For Electra Trust

LONDON — The venture capital firm 3i Group PLC, stymied in its attempts to ne-gotiate a buyout of Electra Investment Trust PLC, mounted a hostile bid worth £1.25 billion (\$2.04 billion) on Friday.

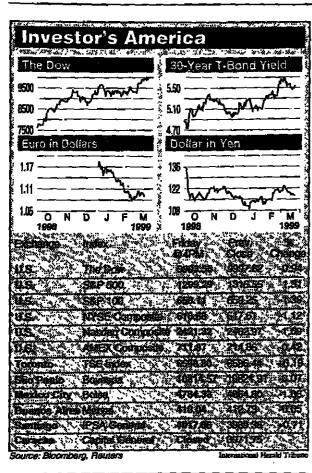
The bid, which Electra rejected as "inadequate," values an Electra share at 725 pence, a 2 percent premium to the Thursday close. 3i said it would pay 65 of its own shares and £320 in cash for every 100 Electra shares. Electra is offering to buy 40 percent of its shares at 786 pence each.

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#### **Very briefly:**

•Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.'s first-quarter earnings rose 13 percent, to \$211 million, as bond and stock market rallies lifted trading and commission income.

•The Federal Reserve Board chairman, Alan Greenspan, said that although financial derivatives heighten uneasiness in times of instability, there was no reason to impose heavier

•Old Kent Financial Corp. plans to buy Pinnacle Banc Group Inc. for \$243 million in stock.

•Viacom Inc. will buy the remaining shares of the television producer Spelling Entertainment Group Inc. that it does not already own for \$167.4 million in cash.

•Cornerstone Realty Income Trust Inc., a Virginia-based owner of apartment properties, has rejected an \$11.50 a share buyout offer from the investor Irwin Jacobs.

Northrop Grumman Corp. will restate its fourth-quarter results, taking a \$3 million loss because of a write-off associated with an investment in a rocket company.

#### First Union to Slash 5.850 Jobs

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina - First Union Corp. said Friday that it would cut 5.850 jobs, fewer than it had originally planned, as it continued to absorb a big acquisition.

The cuts come in the wake of First Union's \$16.1 billion purchase last year of CoreStates Financial Corp. The company is trying to offset higher spending on its capital markets, capital management and retail banking operations. The bank said the job cuts would help reduce annual expenses by \$400 million. Still, expenses for 1999 will rise 3 percent from 1998,

First Union shares fell down 81.25 cents to close at

stocks eroded the Dow's advance toward the 10,000 level and left other stock-market indexes lower.

The Dow dropped 94.07 points to close at 9,903.55 after having spent much of the day hovering above 10,000. On Thursday, the Dow closed at a record 9,997.62.

Prices were also affected by the quarterly expiration of contracts on stock options, index options, and index futures, an event that typically exacerbates market volatility.

Stocks were also hampered by rising yields in the Treasury bond market. Bond prices fell, pushing yields up, amid speculation AT&T would increase what is already the largest-ever corporate bond sale, from a planned \$6 billion, to meet was the biggest loser on Nasdaq, valued," said Henry Cavanna, a ings," Mr. Cavanna said.

ing Treasury securities, said Randy

#### U.S. STOCKS

Bateman at Sun Trust Private Capital Group in Orlando, Florida. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 24/32 to 95 25/32, taking

the yield up to 5.54 percent from 5.49 percent. In the broader stock indexes, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell 17.26 points to 1,299.29. The Nasdag composite index fell 41.64 points to 2,421.32.

that rose on the New York Stock pectations because of price cuts.

Cambridge Technology slumped
9% to 11% after the computer consulting company warned first-quarter off as quickly as expected.

International Business Machines prospects, he said.

agged the Dow down after a Mor
"You definitely have earnings dragged the Dow down after a Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. snalyst trimmed his price estimate for the world's biggest computer maker.

rise to 195 in the next 12 months, lower than the 210 forecast earlier, on concern that revenue from main-Fifteen stocks fell for every 13 frame computers will not meet ex-

recent weeks from Compaq Computer, which fell 11/16 to 30 13/16, earnings would fall below forecasts and Dell Computer, which dropped because a reorganization has not paid 2 to 40%, ignited concern about other PC-related companies' earnings

worries in the high-tech area. Microsoft and Intel are fine, but the smaller companies are struggling IBM fell 8% to 169 after Thomas right now," Alan Shoaf, a Nasdaq Kraemer predicted the stock would trader at NatCity Investments Inc. in Indianapolis, said.

But some investors expect stocks to resume their climb soon. "I don't think the weakness in several technology stocks is enough to derail the

Technology Issues Dash Hopes for a Blue-Chip Record

NEW YORK — Stocks slumped fiday as weakness in technology tocks croded the Deur's 50 much supply that's something to the learned in the stocks of the chip Record in the supply that is something to the learned in the supply that is something to the learned in the supply that is something to the learned in the supply that is something to the learned in the supply that is something to the learned in the supply that is something to the supply that is supply that it is supply that is supply that is supply that it is supply th able U.S. company could reach \$130 in 12 months, up from his previous estimate of \$110.

GE has expanded its international market in electrical equipment and services, which will probably allow. the company to grow faster than its

rivals, Mr. Cornell said. Ivillage Inc., which runs Web. sites with information for women, surged to 80 1/8 on its first day of trading after the company raised \$87.6 million in an initial public. stock sale. The shares were offered at-\$24 each.

Nike rose 5 11/16, or 10 percent. The market's richly valued, and market because the bigger compa- to 60 11/16, after the company reported its first increase in profit in (AP, Bloomberg): five quarters.

### **ECB Rate Inaction Pulls Euro Lower**

NEW YORK - The euro fell against the dollar Friday on expectations the European Central Bank's inaction on interest rates would hinder economic recovery in the 11nation currency union.

"Europe is sitting on the sidelines" and that's holding back the euro, said Laura Zimmerman, a global bond strategist at Payden & Rygel in Los Angeles. "The ECB has the room to cut, it has the flexibility and inflation is

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

low enough, but it's waiting to see how the economy

The euro fell to \$1,0896 in 4 P.M. trading from \$1.0972 Thursday. It is little changed for the week "\$1.05 is the near-term outlook, and targets go as low as par," or 1 euro to \$1.00, said Giorgio Zeolla, a vice

president at Banca Popolare de Milano. "In the long term, lower rates would help the euro." The ECB has held its securities repurchase rate at 3 percent at every policy meeting, and most recently Thursday, since the euro's introduction Jan. 1. Without the help

of lower rates, evidence of flagging growth in Germany and France, Europe's cornerstone economies, continues to accumulate. Some dealers noted that the offer by the French carmaker, Renault SA, to acquire a 35 percent stake in Nissan Motor Co. of Japan had caused some selling of

euros and buying of yen. Other traders said the euro was hurt by the German government's new tax package, which has caused some companies to threaten to relocate their operations outside of Germany. "Germany passing the tax legislation was a negative for the euro," said Kathy Jones, analyst at Prudential Securities.

In other trading, the dollar fell to 117.155 yen from 117.575 yen. But it rose to 1.4673 Swiss francs from 1.4577 francs. The pound fell to \$1.6285 from \$1.6297. (Bridge News, Bloomberg)

Friday, March 19

High Lour Latest Chigo Opint

### HONG KONG: Growing Sense That Tycoons Skew Competition

#### Continued from Page 1

powerful businesses have involvement across different sectors, it may be difficult for the various government agen-cies to monitor market conduct," it added.

In earlier studies of key sectors of the Hong Kong econ-omy, the council has found a for expensive, residential low level of competition in several sectors, including bank deposits, supermarket sales and the supply of gas. Today, only interest rates on deposits of less than a week are still set by a banking cartel, but until a few years ago, all interest rates

were set this way.
"While free and open competition has long been the case in the traded sectors of the Hong Kong economy, this has not been the case in some nontraded sectors," said the Vision 2047 Foundation, a

This is hardly anything new. Since the handover to China in 1997, the traditional colonial practice of Britain the striking of lucrative deals with large business interests

als for a project this big."

Speaking Wednesday at a in secret — has continued.

Then, contrary to normal procedure by which land is auctioned or tendered to the highest bidder, the government awarded a massive Hong Kong, he added, prided

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

part of Hong Kong's recent crosoft Corp. and Yahoo! Inc. ply,

will come from Mr. Li's company, which will be allowed property. Critics say the cyberport is simply another mixed use real estate develbenefits Hong Kong's lead-ing commercial family. "Has the government sud-

denly changed the rules of the game" from open tender? Kwong. "We are competing asked Emily Lan, an oppoasked Emily Lan, an oppo-sition legislator. "Are there going to be more and more such secret deals in future?"

"Auctions and tenders have always served us well in bringing us the best possible prices" for land, wrote Jake van der Kong Advantage." column in the South China Morning Post. "Others should have had an opportunity to submit their propos-

seminar on the cyberport, The latest example to elicit Hong Kong's financial secsharp protests came in the retary. Donald Tsang, in-budget presented March 3, sisted that the cyberport had been created in "a highly competitive environment, adding: "Cronyism is never in Hong Kong's dictionary.

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have signed on to lease space Dush into high technology.

About half of the money in the cyberport, though it is nnclear what if anything they will do once there that they could not already do in other

premises in Hong Kong.
The government defended its conduct, saying an open fixed-line telephone sector. tender would have delayed After Hongkong Teleopment, dressed up to cam-ouflage a secretive deal that six months or more. "Six months is a century in the development of information technology," said the infor-

Other areas in which the Consumer Council alleges sluggish competition include the oil industry in Hong Kong. The council has begun an investigation into retail pricing of liquid petroleum gas, after companies were allegedly

amount of prime land to the itself "on being transparent of their product even though son of the tycoon Li Ka-shing, Richard Li, to develop a \$1.7 billion "cyberport,"

This "points to a lack of Companies such as Mi-This "points to a lack of Companies such as Mi-competition in the retail sup-" the council said.

Another area of controversy is telecommunications. where legislators and companies that are not owned by tycoons are alleging that the government is backtracking on plans to liberalize the

com's phone monopoly was broken in 1995, the government licensed three companies to provide fixed-line ser-/i
vice. All three companies were controlled by three of: the largest property empires

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WORLD STORY IN THE

in the city. Now, the three-year moratorium on new competitors! has passed, but the govern-1 ment is being accused by other: phone companies of buckling under to statements by Li Kashing, who said that he would the handful of service station make fewer investments in his phone network if he had to slow to lower the retail price face more competition.

### SONY: Toy Has Industry Abuzz

Continued from Page 9

culate a budget, but it will take a generation of youngsters to the threshold of virtual reality.

"I think what you're seeing is the transition from people playing video games to a world where we will create our own fantasies in cyberspace," said Larry Smarr, director of the National Center for Supercomputer Applications, in Cham-

paign-Urbana, Illinois.

PlayStation II was therefored by Sony and Toshiba Carp.in.
a joint venture that adds up to an estimated \$2 billion gamble. on the future of consumer electrottics. Although the two companies are playing down speculation

that their new chip could catapult them into competition with makers of personal computer hardware and software, many opportunities are obviously ahead for a machine that generates graphics at more than twice the speed of the most powerful? engineering work stations.

The brain of PlayStation II is a microprocessor that the two

draw tens of millions of tiny polygons, the building blocks of As a result, it renders animated graphics with the realism of the movie "Toy Story" but in what is known as "real time." That is, it creates movement, characters and entire environments in response to the movement of a joystick or other device.

in response to the movement of a joystick or other device.

"Sony is clearly riding on a consumer mandate and delivering supercomputer graphics," said Richard Doherty, president of Envisioneering, a consulting firm in Seaford, New York.

"People will buy the PlayStation II just to get at the chip."

Sony executives said they intended the name Emotion Engine to convey the hope that game developers will use the chip's power to create virtual worlds rich in subtlety and nuance.

"We're hoping that you will go beyond driving and shooting and killing people," Phil Harrison, a vice president at Sony Computer Entertainment Inc., told the developers. "We are looking for a new generation of software that has the same impact on a person as a great book or a great movie."

He said the new processor had enough power to begin to convey human-like motions and abilities, ranging from natural movement and facial expressions to artificial intelligence like the ability to learn and to recognize speech.

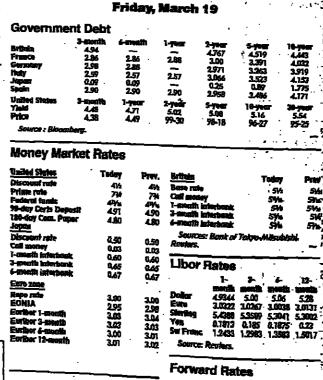
The Emotion Engine is the most recent example of a reversal under way in technological development. For de-

The Emotion Engine is the most recent example of a reversal under way in technological development. For decades, the most advanced consumer electronics were technologies that trickled down from the world of supercomputing, the Departments of Defense and Energy and NASA.

That process has been turned on its head, mostly by the economics of the consumer electronics industry, which has evolved from a beneficiary of cutting-edge computer engineering to its driving force.

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**EUROPE** 

## From Lumber to Leather, With a Line in Winning Swisscom

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PARIS — François Pinault has come a long way from lumber to

One of the wealthiest investors in France, Mr. Pinanlt on Friday moved to become the largest share-holder in Gucci Group NV in a deal that would create a luxury-goods company capable of rivaling Bernard Arnault's LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA. If the plan holds up — and Mr. Arnault has other intentions — it would foil LVMH's effort to go in control of the LVMH's effort to gain control of the

Italian fashion house. Gucci bags and shoes, which can cost as much as \$1,000 in its boutiques, are the latest upscale purchase by Mr. Pinault, who started in business at his father's lumberyard. He has shown a taste for luxury in the past: His other holdings include the art auction house Christie's International PLC, the Bordeaux vine-yard Chatean Latour and Vail Val-

ley, a ski resort in Colorado. "Pinault has now turned Prin-temps into a luxury-goods group," said Patrick Leguil, head of research at KBC Securities in Paris. "This is definitely a challenge to Amault."

Mr. Pinanit, 62, owns 42 percent of Pinault-Printemps-La Redoute ranked Mr. Pinault the 35th-richest SA through his holding company man in the world, with a net worth of up and turned them around by up-Artemis, which is private and does \$6.6 billion. He has amassed an art not publish accounts.

In a related move, Artemis agreed

that includes Yves Saint Laurent clothes, perfumes and cosmetics. "I like building things, and this is a chance to create a large global group," Mr. Pinault said.

Analysts said that Domenico De Sole, the chief executive of Gucci, turned to the French businessman to fight off Mr. Arnault because Mr. Pinault has a reputation of leaving companies alone after he acquires them. Within Pinanlt-Printemps. FNAC, the electronics store, and the mail-order house La Redoute run themselves independently.

Mr. Arnault, by contrast, had said he planned to make changes at Gucci even though its profit has been rising.

Mr. De Sole said Pinault-Printemps was "the ideal partner." "They support the management of Gucci to become a force in the luxury arena and offer us the independence

we need to grow," he said. Analysts said that because Pinault-Printemps was doing the buying, Mr. Pinault was buying Gucci for business reasons. For purchases Chateau Latour and Christie's, he uses Artemis.

collection with paintings by Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Andy to pay Sanofi SA 6 billion francs (\$1 Wathol, as well as sculptures by billion) for Sanofi Beauty, a business Henry Moore and Pablo Picasso.



The principals shaking hands. From left, the designer Tom Ford, Mr. De Sole, Pinault-Printemps' Serge Weinberg and Mr. Pinault.

Unlike many French business enraged, and French law was that are closer to his heart, such as civil service. He left school at 16 to shares when buying control of a work in the lumberyard.

In the 1970s, when many French In June 1988, Forbes magazine lumberyards were going out of busi- buying a 10 billion franc portfolio of Friday. ness, Mr. Pinault began buying them junk bonds that Credit Lyonnais SA grading their products and seeking percent gain on some, and the purexport markets.

department-store company Prin-temps. Minority shareholders were maker of athletic shoes.

leaders, Mr. Pinault did not go to a changed shortly after to force said it expected sales to grow mod-top university or do a stint in the companies to bid for all outstanding erately this year amid heightening erately this year amid heightening competition. company

In 1993 he pulled off another coup, was forced to sell. He made up to a 50 chase also gave him control of such In 1991, he won 66 percent of the U.S. companies as Samsonite, the

#### holdings in Malaysia and India," the company said. Philips Bid for VLSI

To Jettison

**Asia Units** 

BERN - Swisscom AG said Fri-

day that it would sell its stakes in

holdings in Malaysia and India at a

loss of 519 million Swiss francs (\$357.4 million).

Swisscom, which had invested bil-

lions of francs abroad to counter the

arrival of competition at home, said it would shed 4,000 jobs through

The company now says it will

Swisscom reported net income of

1.56 billion francs for 1998, after a loss of 415 million francs a year

earlier. Sales rose 6.3 percent, to

The company, which made its first public offering last October,

Swisscom shares closed 19 francs

lower at 574 francs in Zurich on

a stake in Mutiara Swisscom Bhd.

international activities and follow-

ing a comprehensive and critical

evaluation of various options, Swis-

scom decided to withdraw from the

2001 to raise earnings.

10.46 billion francs.

concentrate more on Europe.

The announcement came as

luxury goods at BNP Securities in Is Not High Enough Agence France-Presse

SAN JOSE, California - The semiconductor maker VLSI Technology Inc. rejected a takeover bid Friday evening, issued a statement saying that Gucci's board would evaluate the LVMH offer at a meetfrom Philips Electronics NV and said it might instead look for a high-

Philips had offered to buy the company \$17 a share, which values it at about \$900 million.

VLSI said Thursday it found the Philips' offer inadequate and that it would "explore its strategic alternatives, including a merger, sale or recapitalization.

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#### Very briefly:

In India, Swisscom has a joint venture, Sterling Cellular Ltd., with Essar Group, and in Malaysia it has Nissan Motor Co. will examine Renault SA's proposal to take a 35 percent stake in Japan's No. 2 carmaker at a board meeting on March 27. "As part of a strategy to focus

• France's industrial production rose 0.6 percent in January on a month-to-month basis, lifted by higher output of factory equipment and components for manufactured goods, suggesting companies expected economic growth to be sustained in coming months. Output for December was revised to a decline of 1.2 percent from a first report of a 1.6 percent decline.

Bayer AG will buy out its partners in Bayer-Saukyo Co., a Japanese diagnostics company. The German company will buy Sankyo's 45 percent stake and a 10 percent stake owned by Ono Pharmaceutical Co.

• Banco Bilbao Vizcaya SA sold a 1.24 percent stake in Promodes SA for 129 million euros (\$141.5 million).

 Italy's Treasury cut its 1999 growth forecast to 1.5 percent. one percentage point lower than initially expected, and said the deficit and debt would overshoot initial targets as a result. The Treasury said the deficit would reach 2.4 percent of gross domestic product, instead of the previous target of 2 percent. Italy's debt, it said, would come to 116.9 percent of GDP, instead of the targeted 114.6 percent.

• Ford Motor Co. hired Wolfgang Reitzle, a former board member of Bayerische Motoren Werke AG, to run Premier Automotive Group, Ford's new luxury-car group, which will include its Jaguar, Aston Martin, Lincoln and Volvo brands.

• Henkel KGaA, an adhesives maker, said net income rose 16 percent in 1998, to 372 million euros, but warned that 1999 would be a "challenging" year due to economic slumps in many world markets.

### GUCCI: Fashion House Dodges LVMH With \$3 Billion Bid From French Retailer

#### Continued from Page 1

Mr. Pinault paid \$1.2 billion to acquire Christie's International PLC,

the art auction house. The skirmishing began early Frithe \$3 billion pocketed for the new day, when Pinault-Printemps-Re-Gucci shares to make further acdoute SA announced it would pay \$3 billion — or \$75 each — for 39 million new Gucci shares in a deal time, Pinault-Printemps said it had beauty-products units of Sanofi SA, which includes the Yves Saint Cleef & Arpels and Oscar de la pending a final decision in April. Renta perfumes, and would offer

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was to use Gucci as a "platform" for sisted that LVMH make a bid for Pinault canceling its offer, the formation of a big luxury-goods 100 percent of Gucci shares, but on The counteroffer sparked the posgroup. The group would be run by Mr. De Sole and Gucci's fashion designer, Tom Ford, who would use the \$3 billion pocketed for the new

quisitions, Mr. Weinberg said. the Netherlands but has its operations that would give the company control in Italy, had mounted a defense of 40 percent of Gucci. At the same against LVMH by offering employees stock options that would have bought, for \$1 billion, the diluted LVMH's share to about 25 Laurent fashion house and Van froze both companies' voting rights in a Dutch court.

> Last week, Gucci and LVMH agreed to send representatives to

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cellent given the weak market for luxury goods, made it "too risky."

LVMH executives were while expression of the strict of the

by the Pinault announcement Fri-Gucci, which is incorporated in day. In Amsterdam, James Lieber, who was to represent LVMH at the talks in Amsterdam, reacted angrily, 'Gucci has once again taken action that has created a hostile environment," he said. Mr. Lieber said percent LVMH challenged the move LVMH was examining its options in an Amsterdam court, and the court and would contest the Pinault offer

Then later Friday, LVMH unex-pectedly struck back, announcing a bid for all of Gucci shares. LVMH of Pinault-Printemps, said the plan differences. Mr. De Sole had in- and it said the bid was contingent on board."

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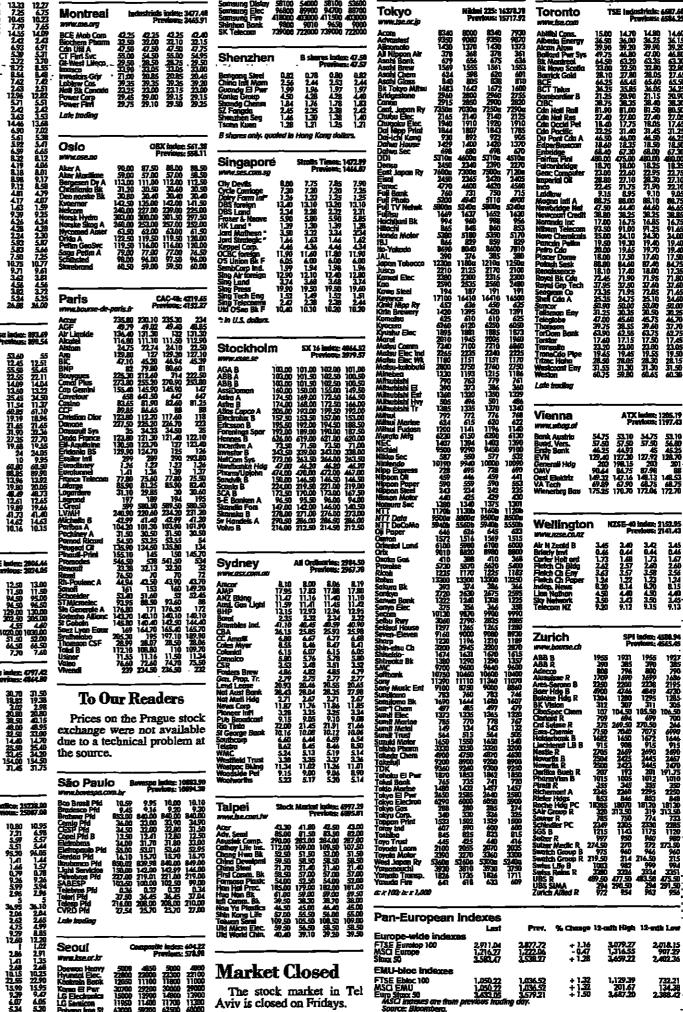
to approve Gucci results for the 1999 financial year, which are to be published Monday. Mr. De Sole, who earlier described himself as "ecstatic" over the Pinault deal, Serge Weinberg, chief executive Amsterdam to try to sort out their did not say what price it would offer, said merely, "This is a matter for the Close

A spokeswoman for Pinault-Prin-

Mr. De Sole, who left Paris on

temps in Paris said the company would not comment.

ing Sunday. The board was to meet



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# Japanese Exports to South Korea Unlikely to Rise Fast Investor's Asia tons to be to be to be to be to be to be tons to be tons to be to b

SEOUL - After years of waiting for South Korea to open its markets to Japanese motor vehicles and bigscreen television sets, Japanese and Korean officials and business leaders are beginning to wonder what all the fuss is about.

One thing they do not expect when the barriers are removed at the end of June is a major influx of Japanese consumer products, notably motor vehicles.

'Japanese exports to Korea will not increase automatically," said Yoshioki Nakamura, general manager of the Seoul branch of Mitsubishi Corp., Japan's largest trading company. "Japanese automo-biles cannot get in here."

Japanese and Koreans cite Korea's long-term economic problems as the major barrier to a significant increase in Japanese imports despite the good will engendered by summits of their leaders - President Kim Dae Jung's visit to Japan in October and most of them from entry here.

While the two leaders at their summit on Saturday will focus largely on policy toward North Korea, they also will talk about a bilateral investment treaty that both sides hope will lead to an increase in Japanese investment in Korea.

"Economic relations are a major topic at the summit," said a Japanese official, viewing the two-hour conversation as a chance to develop a common "economic agenda" on trade as well as investment. Mr. Kim for his part was expected to ask Mr. Obuchi to try to shore up the Japanese yen lest Japanese products become so low-priced as to compete unfairly with the competition from Korea and elsewhere.

Korean officials denied that lingering Korean suspicions of Japanese intentions were a factor in the maintenance of unwritten barriers that may discourage Japanese consumer products as much as the regulations that previously blockaded

division of the commerce ministry. All told, said Mr. Choi, the con-somer market by the end of June will open up to 15 items previously barred here. Among them, he said, were seven types of motor vehicles

"But our consumers have no money to buy these items," he said. The difficulties of selling Japanese consumer products, however, are not about to redress a balance of trade that is overwhelmingly in Japan's exports to Japan range from semi-favor even though total trade between conductors and steel to clothing, authe two countries fell by 33 percent in dio equipment and dairy products.

1998 from the year before. dio equipment and dairy products.

Mr. Shin saw a direct relationship

as well as engine parts and anto-motive machine centers.

ports from Japan fell by 41.5 percent restructure to \$16.28 billion, still beavily in ing debts.

"We have no problem between Korean industries do not have the versely affect our economy. Japan and Korea," said Choi Chul money to buy all the machinery they Analysts see a brigh woo, deputy director of the import had been accustomed to getting from however, in the form of a limited set of the import had been accustomed to getting from however, in the form of a limited set of the limited s abroad. The result is a vicious circle, they say, in which exports of finished Korean products is decreasing and manufacturers have still less with which to buy capital equipment.

"The trade volume is contracting due to the economic crisis," said Shin Hyoung Oen, deputy director of the division in charge of trade with Asian countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. "Capital goods are 90 percent of our imports from Japan," he said, while Korean

Mr. Shin saw a direct relationship Korean exports to Japan totaled between declining capital imports \$11.87 billion last year, a drop of 19.7 percent from 1997, while imrestructure and pay off overwhelm-

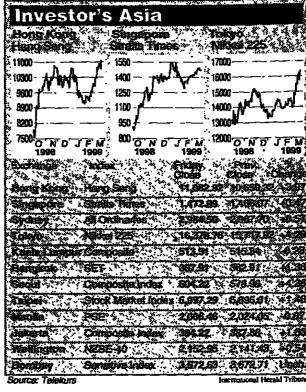
Therefore they do not have much

Analysts see a bright side, however, in the form of a huge increase in Japanese investment in an economy that is desperately in need of foreign funding to buoy its in-dustry. Officials cited negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty between Japan and Korea as possibly the most important dividend of the economic crisis for both countries.

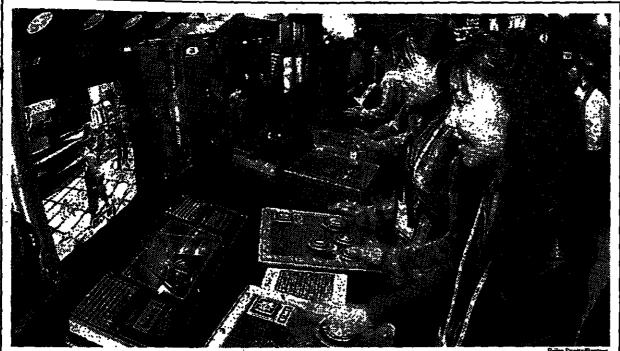
The process of removing barriers to investment, however, may be almost as difficult as lifting the trade barriers. The Japan External Trade Organization cites a range of barriers it says are responsible for holding direct investment from Japan last year to just \$500 million of a total of \$8.8 billion invested here by foreign countries.

Barriers range, said Mitsuyuki Nemoto, deputy director of the organization's office here, from a monctary system that restricts remit-Japan's favor.

"Therefore they do not have much tances of funds from Korea to Japan money for machinery from Japan," to high taxes to rules that discourage the trade deficit with Japan, according to experts here, but the fact that machinery imports will further adtances of funds from Korea to Japan to high taxes to rules that discourage



# of borth Kong



COMPUTER GAME JAMBOREE — Japanese women trying out dance game software from the computer entertainment maker Enix Corp. at the Tokyo Game Show in Chiba, Japan, on Friday.

### Miyazawa Sees Economic Rebound by Spring

TOKYO - As Japanese measures to revive the country's sagging economy Fri-Miyazawa claimed Japan

meeting in May. to the United States for a ing has not been set.

meeting with President Bill Japan's leaders have been meeting with President Bill

officials announced further lion yen (\$126.3 billion) on yen on stimulus packages last public works projects by September, in another atday, Finance Minister Kiichi, tempt to spur the economy. At a cabinet meeting Fri-Miyazawa claimed Japan Asked if he expected the day, Mr. Obuchi proposed ex-

would be out of recession in ... United States to press for furtime for a Japan-U.S. summit ther action if the economy fails "The economy will be in finance minister replied: "I Minister Keizo Obuchi goes by then." A date for the meet-

Clinton, Mr. Miyazawa said. promising an imminent recov-

He said his government ery in recent weeks, after would spend a record 15 tril-spending more than 40 trillion year and enacting a major bank recapitalization program.

panding a loan-guarantee project for small business to rent 20 trillion yen. The plan recovery" by the time Prime expect the economy to recover helps small companies borrow when they are having dif-

ficulty raising bank loans.
Tokyo also would hold down the borrowing rate at the state Housing Loan Corp. to encourage house buyers to take out mortgages, local media reported.

Mr. Obuchi said a rebound in the Tokyo stock market see a rise in bankruptcies showed that the economic among small to mid-sized downturn was bottoming out. The Nikkei 225 stock index rose Friday, closing up 660.86 points, or 4.2 percent, at 16,378.78, the highest finish since July 31. Since the be-

ginning of the year the Nikkei has climbed 18.3 percent. But analysts pointed out

that Tokyo's stock market often rallies in March, the month when most companies close their books for the financial year. Many economists are also

Miyazawa and were disappointed by the latest gross domestic product growth fig-ures, released last week, which showed the Japanese economy has now shrink for five consecutive quarters.

But in another upbeat assessment, Taichi Sakaiya, the government's chief economic planner, said he did not forecompanies toward March 31. Mr. Sakaiya said that was because fund procurement by these companies had stabilized during the recession.

(Bridge News; AFP)

## Negative Numbers For Hong Kong

By Mark Landler

New York Times Service HONG KONG -- Confirming a dismal earlier prognosis, the Hong Kong government said Friday that the territory's economy shrank an estimated 5.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 1998 and 5.1 percent over the whole year.

It is the first full-year decline in economic output since Hong Kong began keeping records in 1961, and extends its worst recession since World War IL Such superlatives have become numbingly familiar in the 17 months since the Asian crisis struck this oncevibrant commercial center.

What surprised economists was that the economy continued to lose a lot of ground in the most recent quarter. Despite a rebound in the stock and property markets, consumer spending plummeted 9.3 percent. That followed a 10 percent

decline in the third quarter. "The fourth quarter was a lot worse than we were expecting," said Ian Per-"The domestic spending figures were dreadful."

A government spokesin consumer spending on the unemployment rate of 6 comes, which are being file spending projects.

frozen or cut by employers. Mr. Perkin said the weak spending boded ill for this year, because the government has pinned much of its hopes for a revival on consumer confidence. In its recent budget, Hong Kong forecast that domestic spending would grow 2.5 percent in 1999 — fueling an overall growth rate of

0.5 percent. "Hong Kong will need a huge recovery in the second six months of the year to meet those goals," Mr. Perkin said. He noted that retail sales, exports, and investment spending were all down so far this year. He said he would not revise his forecast that Hong Kong's economy will contract another 1 percent in 1999.

Hong Kong's stock mar-ket blithely disregarded the bleak news, rising 3.97 per-cent, to 11,082.92.

Analysts said that investors were encouraged by strong performances on Wall Street and in Tokyo. They were also anticipating cuts in local interest rates.

The government seized kin, the chief economist at on the stock market's rothe Hong Kong General bust performance as proof mend. A spokesman also said that the contraction in fourth quarter economic man blamed the weakness growth was less steep than in the third quarter.
In its 1999-2000 budget,

percent — also a record Hong Kong hopes to revive high — and on low in- confidence with high-pro-

#### Very briefly:

 Thailand auctioned the last of the business loans of 56 finance companies shut down in December 1997, with 13 bidders — nine local and four foreign — submitting bids valued at a total of 227 billion baht (\$6.09 billion). But a local analyst said the results were likely to be similar to the first auction in December when the bids were far lower than the government expected.

• Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co., Honda Motor Co. and Mazda Motor Corp. reported that their domestic output fell in February from a year ago as demand

 China shrugged off U.S. complaints about its huge trade surplus on Friday, saying the latest U.S. figures were skewed by Washington's reluctance to ease curbs on high-tech ex-

#### ADVERTISEMENT

NOTICE OF ANYUAL GENERAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Stockholders of SCHLUMBERGER LIMITED (Schlumberger N.V.) will be held at the Avila Beach Hotel, Willemstad, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, on Wednesday 14 April, 1999, at 10:30 o'clock in the morning (Curação time), for the lowing purposes:

1. To cleat 12 directors.

2. To report on the course of business during the year ended December 31, 1998, to approve the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheet as at December 31, 1998, its Consolidated Statement of Income for the year ended December 31, 1998 and the declaration of dividends by the Board of Directors as reflected in the Company's 1998 Appeal Report to Stackholders. Annual Report to Stockholders.

Up to 9 April, 1999 the holders of Certificates representing 5 or 100 common shares Schlumberger Limited may give voting instructions to the depositary under deposit of their certificates with the undersigned or by surrender of a deposit

If no voting instructions are given the undersigned will vote for the five matters.

Copies of the notice of this Annual Meeting of Stockholders and of the Annual Report 1998 are available with undersigned.

ARTESIA ADMINISTRATIEKANTOOR B.V. (formely PARIBAS ADMINISTRATICALITYOOR R.V.) Amsterdam, March 17, 1999 Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam

### Bank of China Dismisses Top Officials After Probe

country's central bank, dis- bank position for the remissed or demoted dozens of mainder of life. senior commercial bank officials after a recent inves-gated 50 county or city bank tigation into the country's branches around the country bad-loan problem, the official from September until the end

moted, handed over to judicial authorities for prosecu-tion, expelled from the Com-

All except those who re-SHANGHAI — The ceived mere warnings were People's Bank of China, the banned from holding a senior

The central bank investi-Financial News reported on of last year, the report said.

riday. It found that mismanage.
At least 69 branch chiefs or ment was behind most of the top branch officials were bad loans, with high-ranking found guilty of serious mis-bankers approving loans in an found guilty of serious mis-conduct and either fired, de-irregular or arbitrary manner. often for some personal ben-

The inquiry also uncovered munist Party or warned, the false reporting aimed at hid-daily said.



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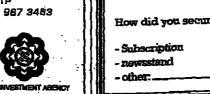
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1st & 3rd Sun. 5 p.m. ave Dr Jean-Heitz (Temple Reformes) 33 04 73 38 41 59 FLORENCE

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ANGLICAN-EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY, meets at Ev. Lutheran Johannestriche, 1st Sun. 11 except August. Adelbert-Sit-ter-Str 2, 83052. Tel: 49 (0) 90245415 MUNICH

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, Sun. Euchesist 9 & 11.45 am (Sun School/ Nursery) Seybothstr 4, 81545 Munich (Hartaching), Tet 49 (1) 99648185 Frankfurt

CHRIST THE KING Bucherist Sun 9 &11 Sunday School Marsey 10:45 Schaster Pinz Sir 22 60323 Frankfunt, Ger. U1.2,3 Mitpuck-Alles, Tel. 49 (0) 68550184 WIESBADEN

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY Sun, 10 a.m., Frankfurter Str. 3, 65189 Weshadan. Tot. 49 (0) 611306674 **GENEVA** EMBLANCIEL CHURCH 1st 8 3rd Sun 10 a.m. Euchschet 2nd 8 4th Sun Morning Prayer. 3 nue de Monthoux, 1201 Gene-va, Switzerfant. Tet 41 (0) 22 732 80 78

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Sun. 11:15 ant. (Sun. School), 1st Sun. Sem., 563 Cheu-see de Louvain, Ohalt. O. 81 r Coleau, 1410 Weisrico. Tel 32 (0) 2 364 3556

DARMSTADT (GERMANY) ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 2nd å 4th Sun, 4 p.m. in Geroeindehaus, Oreifaligkeitsisische, Dannstadt-Eberstadt. Tel: 49 (0) 6151.148794

NGOLSTADT (GERMANY) ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 4th Sun, 6 p.m. in Dreieinigkeitskirche, Bazr-Ebenhausen. Tet. 49 (0) 8421,4125

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Bremen LB.C., Hoherlohestr. Hermann-Bose-Str Worship Sun. 17:00, Pastor telephone: 0421-78648

BUCHAREST LB.C., St Xenopol nr. 2. This is next to Gradina localine 11:45-13:15 Tet Pastor Bill Bowers Tel 330-0273/321-3472

BUDAPEST LB.C., meens at Mories Zsigmond Gironazium. Totolvesz ut 48-54, Sun. 10:00 Tet 248-1613

BULGARIA LB.C., World Trade Center 36, Drahan Tzarkov Skd. Skde Skdy 10-Worship 11 Jemes Duke Pasior, Tet. 971 - 2192

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To approve the appointment of Price WaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent public accountants to audit the accounts of the Company for 1999. Action will also be taken upon such other matters as may come properly before the Meeting.

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LB. FELLOWSHIP, Vinohradska # 68, Prague 3. Sun. 11.00 Tet (02) 311 7974

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### Herald Tribune



E-mail address: moneyrep@int.com

### The Stocks You Love

When asked to talk about widely held stocks, one market professional asked if he could comment on issues with large market values instead. His initial reluctance illustrates how the financial establishment often fails to understand the mind-set of the individual investor. This week, the Money Report looks at the stocks that real investors are likely to own.

of course there is a lot of overlap between the worlds of large-capitalization and widely held stocks. Big companies have a lot of outstanding equity, and most investors diversify their portfolios. Yet the categories are not identical, especially outside of the United States.

In most of the world, telephone companies are held by a wide base of investors. In Europe and Asia, this reflects recent privatizations of formerly government-controlled entities, but the American AT&T Corp. has been in private hands for more than a century, sought by many for the generous dividends and steady revenue that reflected its near monopoly.

Competition now abounds, yet telecommunications issues remain among the most popular of stocks. One reason is that these companies have to be high-tech as well as high-yield. After telecommunications, banks are popular, and public utilities too, notably in Japan. All kinds of technology companies feature recommends in the United States. nies feature prominently in the United States.

The list below represents art as much as science. Numbers, pecially in Europe, are hard to come by, and even official corporate data can be misleading, as many of the record holders are brokers acting on behalf of stockholders. To compile our list, we relied on a combination of reported data and professional consensus.

#### The Most Widely Held Issues

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Website: www.iht.com/IHT/MONEY Widely Held Stocks: Lots of a Good Thing in U.S.

By Aline Sullivan

"NVESTING in widely held stocks in North America means joining a very, very big crowd. It also means shelling out a lot of money. Microsoft Corp., for example, is priced around \$175 a share, or an

stonishing 67 times current earnings. Microsoft has about 70,500 individual shareholders, according to its latest annual filing with the U.S. government, though the real number is probably much higher because many investors probably have their holdings at brokerage houses. At Merrill Lynch & Co., the biggest American brokerage, Luceat Technologies Inc. is the most widely held stock, and the phone equipment maker's filing said it had 1.76 million separate owners overall. Like Microsoft, investors pay for the privilege of owning its shares, at just over \$100 apiece or 82 times its latest annual earnings.

Are they worth it? Yes, some professional investors say. These are the region's most liquid stocks and, more importantly in the very liquid U.S. market, the best analyzed. Unpleasant surprises are rare. Sure, they are expensive. Some, notably Coca-Cola, are arguably too expensive. But most are likely to remain on this list for some time yet.

"Anyone who considers themselves a long-term investor should have a healthy helping of these stocks," said Peter Canelo, U.S. investment strategist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. "The fundamentals of the U.S. are still fantastic: We have a much leaner and more competitive economic system than anywhere else in the world, and our stock market is proof of that."

Even those who take a pessimistic view of the market say that widely held stocks are the ones worth owning long term.

Richard McCabe, chief market analyst at

Merrill Lynch & Co., said: "Most of these stocks are overbought right now so wait until the spring to invest or employ dollar-cost averaging to invest a bit at a time. But the major trends still look good for these companies, particularly for the high-tech ones."

A glance at the list shows just how much high technology has captured the imagination (and wallets) of North Americans. Add telecommunications companies, most of which are on the cutting edge of Internet developments, and you have accounted for half the list.



said. "These are the fastest-growing companies in the U.S., and they are likely to stay that way." He is bullish on Cisco Inc., which he describes as "laying out the plumbing" for the Internet. AT&T Corp. and Lucent are good, low-risk Internet-related plays, he said, while Intel Corp., Oracle Corp. and Microsoft are all likely to

retain their market shares and keep growing. But exciting investments are not confined to the computer industry. Anyone who stifled a yawn and bought General Electric Co. stock a couple of decades ago as safe long-term in-"High tech is what we do best," Mr. Canelo vestment has had the pleasure of watching the

value of the stock soar as the company transformed itself from a manufacturer to a highmargin information services conglomerate.

Merrill Lynch analysts this week reiterated their buy rating on GE, predicting that earnings will grow by at least 8 percent over the next two years, with the GE Capital financing unit likely to report even faster growth.

Citigroup Inc. is another investor favorite. There is going to be a tremendous boom in consolidation among financial companies in the U.S. as we deregulate," Mr. Canelo said. "Citigroup will be a big beneficiary of that.

"Also, it is going to pick up a lot of business in Latin America and Southeast Asia when local banks run into Y2K problems," he said, referring to the expected failures of computers that cannot deal with dates after 1999.

Other analysts point out that Fleet Financial Group Inc.'s planned \$16 billion takeover of BankBoston Corp., announced Monday, shows just how big Citigroup is. The two banks have combined assets of \$180 billion. the most in New England, but just one-third the assets of Citigroup.

▼HE OLD Coca-Cola Co. advertising jingle "I'd like to buy the world a Coke" was a great success: The world bought Coke and its stock. But shares trade at about \$68 or 48 times current earnings - too much, to some eyes.

"I'm not interested in the stock," a Minneapolis-based analyst said. "It's too expensive, and its growth prospects aren't that great."

Not everyone is bearish on Coca-Cola. Skip Carpenter at Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York this week advised clients to buy shares in the company, saying he expected the price to climb to \$79 within 12 months as its major competitors focus on other businesses and its investment in bottling subsidiaries starts to pay off.

Jennifer Solomon, beverages analyst at Salomon Smith Barney Inc. in New York, seconded that view. 'Look, it has got a superb management team, an outstanding business model, very good long-term growth prospects model, very good long-term growth prospects and the most ubiquitous brand name in the world, "she said, predicting Coke shares would trade in the mid-\$70s within 12 months.

Beside these U.S. giants, even the biggest and most widely held Canadian and Mexican companies look minute. But BCE Inc.,

Canada's largest telecommunications con-cern, and Telefonos de Mexico SA, are huge companies. Indeed, the Telmex L series shares are widely considered the bellwether stock for Mexico.

Analysts are generally bullish on both telecoms. Shares in BCE are likely to continue rising thanks to strong phone equipment sales from Northern Telecom Ltd., of which it owns 41 percent. Telmex stock, which is trading at record highs, should continue to do well: the company enjoys a virtual monopoly in local calls in Mexico and last week received government permission to substantially increase its key long-distance charges.

### Overseas Buyers Discover the New Favorites Among American Issues

By Judith Rehak

IVE OVER, IBM and GE. The likes of Amazon.com and Lucent political and economic problems. Technologies are winning growing numbers of shareholders from outside the United States.

For years, solid blue-chip companies with globally recognized names, including International Business Machines Corp. and General Electric Co., have been the preferred menu of wealthy, conservative Europeans investing in the United States.

"They're a major group of investors, and generally they like to buy and hold their said Guillaume Tournemire, who handles mostly French accounts at Marquette Debary Co., a New York investment

Even as the bull market has driven American

buy them, he said, in part because they feel they buying shares on the U.S. market, he said. must diversify their portfolios if the benefits of it is a similar story with Asian investors.

At the same time, Mr. Tournemire said he is seeing a new generation of European investors entering the picture. Generally in their early 30s and avid fans of the Internet, they are flocking to the U.S. markets to get in on hightech stocks like Amazon.com Inc., eBay Inc. and Yahoo! Inc. that are either unavailable or thinly traded in Europe.

'It reflects a bit the American market, in that there is the same kind of frenzy," Mr. Tournemire said. Some of these high-tech buyers also have some American-bred objectives. Many are employees of high-tech companies operating, but not listed, outside are sending a whopping 60 percent of their the United States. Well aware of Americans who became wealthy by buying shares in the tech stocks, where they favor a "lot of the

blue-chips sky high, Europeans continue to start-up ventures of their employers, they are Internet stocks" said Guy Knight, Schwab's

the Bank of America's investment management group. Although they have recently turned much of their attention to Japan and Korea, when it comes to investing in the United States, high-tech is favored.

'The more aggressive clients are in the 'dot-com' issues, and the more conservative would be in less direct beneficiaries of the Internet, like Cisco, AT&T and IBM," he

The connection between technology-wise investors and U.S. stock preferences is even more dramatic at Charles Schwab Europe. The brokerage's European on-line investors

European marketing chief. Still, there is little doubt that the con-

scene. An executive with a Swiss brokerage in New York confirmed that his clients are overwhelmingly in favor of names they recognize, like IBM, General Motors Corp., and even big retailers like Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

"Big stocks have earnings visibility and that's what they want," he said. "They want to be able to read news about them in their newspapers at home." Only the "grown up" technology companies like Microsoft and America Online Inc. elicit interest from his conservative clientele. And those small U.S. companies? "We tried once to introduce some, but it wasn't successful," he said. For further information, call:

■MARQUETTE DEBARY CO. 1 212 644 5300. ■CHARLES SCHWAB EUROPE. 44 171 786 7100.

### Government Stakes Muddle Picture for Asian Perennials

By Philip Segal

OR ASIAN governments outside Jagood thing. The Hong Kong market was famously liquid and laissez-faire until August, but the largest shareholder of the largest stock is now the government itself. Singapore may be moving to deregulate its market, but different barriers exist there for investors seeking to buy a lot of stock: for-eign ownership limits that mean overseas investors have to pay more than locals to buy

stock in the country's banks.
In Taiwan, the government is engaged as is Hong Kong's in an effort to prop up stocks. The more forced buyers, the smaller the genuine free float.

It is worth remembering that even in the largest Asian markets outside Japan, the dol-lar values of stock under discussion are tiny. The gap is followed by ABN-AMRO NV's "Jack and Bill index," which looks at total market capitalizations in Asia as a percentage of the capitalizations of General Electric Co. and Microsoft Corp. (the index is named after the American companies' chairmen, Jack Welch and Bill Gates).

Outside of Japan, the largest Asian market is Hong Kong, but as of mid-February, the entire Hong Kong market was worth just 44 percent of GE and Microsoft combined. The figure for Thailand was 5 percent, and for South Korea, one of the best-performing markets over the past year, 15 percent.

Despite the diminutive markets, there are a

handful of stocks that are large and widely held by any standard, the biggest of which is HSRC Holdings PLC with a market capitalization of 667.3 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$86.11 billion) and 175,000 shareholders at the end of last year. Now trading at three times book value, it makes up a staggering 28 percent of the benchmark Hang Seng Index.

Perhaps recognizing that the bank is get-ting too big for the Hong Kong market, HSBC said in February that even though its stock is already traded in London, it would be seeking a listing in New York as well. The stock is

support the region's equity market. Since March 1994, HSBC has outper-

pan, markets with large, widely dispersed stocks are not always seen as a formed the Hang Seng index by 163 percent. Its appeal is that it is steadily moving away from its base as an emerging-markets bank. HSBC controls Midland Bank in Great Britain, Marine Midland Bank in the United States and other banks in Latin America, Canada and the Middle East. If a pending deal closes in the next several months, the bank could acquire all the shares of Seoulbank of South Korea, a first for a foreign financial institution in that country. As a result of bad lending stemming from

the Asian crisis, the bank had to make \$2.8 billion in provisions last year. Despite the chance of more such provisions, analysts still

tend to like the stock.
"In a year when HSBC's traditional earnings base has been weighed down by economic woes in the Asian economies, the achievement of 6 percent underlying profit growth and 15.5 percent return on average equity is impressive." said Raymond Lee, head of research for regional financial institutions at Salomon Smith Barney Inc. He rates HSBC "outper-form," a notch below "buy."

While HSBC is as much a core holding for British bank-stock portfolios s as for Hong Kong investors, Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. "is the core holding," of any purely Hong Kong portfolio, said Otto Chan, head of sales at Salomon Smith Barney. Hutchison, with a market capitalization equal to \$31.64 billion, represents the ports, telecommunications, energy and retailing empire of the tycoon Li Ka-

shing. In the past year, it has outperformed the Hang Seng Index by 14.8 percent. Unlike HSBC, though, its shareholding structure is very concentrated for such a big company: Mr. Li's majority-owned Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd., also listed in Hong Kong, owns 49 percent of Hutchison. Like HSBC, the Hong Kong government owns close to 10 percent of the stock.

Trading at just over 26 times expected earnings and 19.7 times trailing earnings (versus a Hang Seng Index average of 15.3

of August was the government of Hong is now 70, and although he remains in control in metals and grain. Kong, which bought 8.8 percent of shares in of his empire and is apparently in good investors in Aust an unprecedented \$15 billion operation to health, no management regime can last Australia Bank Ltd. health, no management regime can last forever. Only Mr. Li could have sewn up an exclusive deal to develop most of China's ports between Hong Kong and Change China's capitalization of \$25.6 billion in the country. ports between Hong Kong and Shanghai. When that dealmaker is gone, what kind of premium will Hutchison command?

In the meantime, Hutchison can boast a \$4 ulation has mounted that Mr. Li was pre- percent in the past six months. paring to make a major purchase,

after Hutchison and Cheung Kong sold their stakes in two companies of the Jardine Matheson group for \$208 million. Hutchison may be getting ready to bid on port contracts in Spain or Latin America, to add to its international holdings at the Felixstowe port in Britain and at one end of the Panama

NOTHER ASIAN success story is Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., the island's biggest ket capitalization of \$19.8 billion. The Taipei market has been propped up by the government, but several analysts still like TSMC.

Oliver Lee, a fund manager at AIG Securities Investment & Trust Co., said he was encouraged by how the company was running at full capacity in the first quarter of this year, against only 60 percent of capacity last year. The great hope for Taiwan makers of chips and other computer components is a spurt in computer sales this year, when people who have not bothered to make sure that their machines will be able to process dates after

Jan. I must buy new ones just to be sure. On the negative side, the chairman of TS-MC sold about 22 percent of his personal holdings late last year in the form of American depository receipts. These trade at about a 20 percent premium to the shares in Taipei.

Australian stocks have already taken a major wallop in currency terms. If commodity prices recover, foreign investors would gain on currency basis alone because widely held, though the largest shareholder as times), Hutchison is not cheap. Also, Mr. Li the Australian dollar so closely tracks prices and an embarrassment."

it outperformed the benchmark All Ordinaries Index by 30.6 percent. At 5.68 percent, its dividend yield is generous for such a profitable company, and the stock trades at 14.6 billion pile of cash. In the past week, spec- times expected earnings, even after rising 50

Merrill Lynch & Co. rates the stock "accumulate," preferring the rival bank ANZ, which it says has lagged the run-up in Asian stocks that began late last year. But Michael Macrow of Merrill still likes NAB, because of its "consistent return on equity of around 20 percent, with substantial suc-cessful efforts to improve cost efficiency." Cutting costs is impor-tant, because a hoped-for merger

with Westpac Banking Corp. has been put off. probably until the next election, analysts say. Another popular Australian stock now is Telstra Corp., the national phone company, which was partly privatized in 1997. With two-thirds of its shares still government-owned, it would be Australia's largest company of the control of pany if fully privatized. Telstra's stock has outperformed the All Ordinaries Index by 63 percent in past year. Like many telecommunications companies. Telstra is making the switch from being a fat cat collecting easy long-distance revenues, to one that battles in a range of competitive markets, including mo-

bile phones and data transmission. Ian Martin of ABN-AMRO recommends buying the stock — but acknowledges that the securities side of his bank is handling the next public offering of Telstra stock. Still, he contended that Telestra's comparatively quick movement out of such "at risk" services as fixed-line long-distance service makes the stock worth owning, despite its hefty premium to the rest of the market and other telecommunications stocks. Not as encouraging, though, was a recent editorial in the Business Review Weekly, which called Telstra's international division "unfocussed

#### THE MONEY REPORT

#### BRIEFCASE

#### On-Line Trading, French-American

shares in U.S. companies, and Americans with similarly frustrating experiences in Nasdaq. vesting in France, help is on

the way. Cortal, the French discount itrade Holding Corp., the U.S. teaming up to offer their cusother's stock markets.



The venture, scheduled to itrade account holders to buy For French investors who and sell stocks listed on the dollars, said Stephane Prunet, have suffered through the Paris Bourse, while Cortal hassic and expense of buying clients will be able to trade tor of Cortal. Trades will U.S. companies on the New simply be converted into dol-York Stock Exchange and lars or euros at the exchange

Investors will be able to in their own languages sions, have not set fees for brokerage owned by Cie. Fin-through the companies' re-trades on the U.S.-French anciere de Paribas, and Amer- spective Web sites. For example, Cortal customers will transactions

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in English, Ameritrade will offer U.S. company research market, along with trading in-structions, in French. Both will offer daily portfolio valuations and stock quotations.

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Although not as low as on-line trading service, are simply click on the U.S. flag their domestic charges, Mr. on the Cortal Web site to get Prunet and Neil Benedict, tomers on-line access to each information and complete Ameritrade's international Both companies plan to of- less" than typical foreign

> Generally, the commission at Cortal is 0.70 percent of a Cortal will make French trade's value, or 7 euros company research available (\$7.70) on a 1,000 euro

Ameritrade charges as in English and educational in-formation on the U.S. stock market price. Cross-border on-line trad-

ing is not widely available, but it seems to be growing. Charles Schwab & Co. does provide access to many markets for its customers, and other on-line brokers have indicated they plan international expansions.

For further information, call: AMERITRADE: 1 402 331 7856, or, tall-free in the United States, 1 800 237 8692. CORTAL: 33 1 47 38 9300, or, soll-free in Prance, 0 800 10 15 20.

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# = muber-1dd The Beloved European Telecoms and Their Rivals

The second secon

By Barbara Wall

THE MORE THAN 2 million shareholders apiece, the privatized telecommunications giants Deutsche Telekom AG and rate of that day.

Cortal and Ameritrade, France Telekom AG and France Telecom SA are among the conduct on-line transactions both known for low commis- most widely held stocks on the Continent. But popularity is seldom a reliable guide to stock market perfor- because of perceived inefficiency and . Sporteder said he liked Mannesmann mance, and enthusiasts of phone management trouble. companies may well find better value

> involving executive, said the costs year in the 11 European Union counwould be "significantly tries that adopted the euro, thanks to speculation about possible takeovers. Although some of the large national money is still flowing into the sector. in the mobile telecoms market.

elsewhere in Europe.

Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom have been major recipients of investment flows because of their significant weightings in the Dow Jones EURO STOXX 50 Index, and Morgan Stanley & Co.'s MSCI EMU Index, the foremost benchmarks for euro zone fund managers, analysts say. But the privatized Italian and

the major euro-zone indexes, and they prices of both giants should hold up. are favored by many analysts.

look cheap relative to their peer commended Mannesmann AG, which group," said Robert Grindle of James started life as a German manufacturing Capel Investment Management in company but now derives around 80 London. "Telefonica's valuation has percent of profit from telecommunibeen burt because of the company's cations. It is the second-largest moexposure to Latin America, and Telecom Italia's valuation has suffered

"I have buy recommendations on both stocks," he said. "In contrast to Telecommunications stocks have some of the other national telecoms risen by about 40 percent so far this carriers, Telefonica and Telecom Italia have made decent progress diversifying into other markets. Telefonica has made invoads into Latin America, and Telecom Italia now has carriers are starting to look expensive, a strong position in Europe, especially

> "Mobile telecoms is the fastest growing area of the telecoms sector, and Telefonica and Telecom Italia both have heavy exposure to this mar-

ket. Spanish companies Telecom Italia Frankfurt said that as long as investors the large national carriers to mod-SpA and Telefonica SA also appear in stick close to the indexes, the stock emize, he said.

Telefonica and Telecom Italia are for fundamental value in a telecompopular with investors because they munications stock, Mr. Sporteder re-

bile-phone company in Europe after Vodafone Group PLC of Britain. Mr. because of its dynamic management

team and strong position in Europe. Patricia Maxwell of Credit Suisse Asset Management in London said she was holding shares in Telecom Italia and the French utility Vivendi SA.

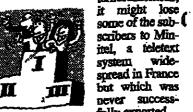
"Vivendi is primarily a water company," she said, "but 40 percent of its investors look for companies that revenue comes from its mobile telecome division. By 2000, the vast majority of the company's revenue will it got into telecoms, I still think it is an interesting investment play with a lot Belgian analyst said. "It is still dif-

potential apside."

ficult getting information from EuroFrance Telecom and Deutsche land companies, even those compaof potential apside." Although Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom and Deutsche land companies, even those companies. France Telecom may be out of favor Telekom may yet surprise investors, nies with wide shareholder bases. with value seekers. Harold Sporleder said Mike Jeremy of ING Baring in of Deutsche Investment Trust in London Competition could stimulate

France Telecom has indicated that it For those investors who are looking aims to become an Internet company, he said, though it is not clear how it

a Net franchise. In addition, Mr. Jeremy warned that some investors are concerned that if France Telecom proceeds with its Internet ambinions,



but which was DEVER SUCCESSfully exported.

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provide them the information they need to assess a stock. "Euroland companies still trail become from telecom operations. Al- hind their U.S. and British counterthough Vivendi has been rerated since parts in terms of the level of attention that they give to investor relations," a

> Mr. Jeremy said Telefonica was the most accessible of the four large phone giants in the region while Telecom Italia was the least accessible.

### Banks Top U.K. List, but Value Is Getting Harder to Find

TIDELY HELD stocks in Britain tend to be those that were given to investors or floated by the government with an eye to placing them with individual holders. British Telecommunications PLC and BG PLC, the former British Gas, are high up on the list of stocks with large numbers of shareholders, with about 1.96 million and 1.23 million, respectively.

at the International Herald
Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles

But even more widely distributed are Halifax
PLC and Abbey National PLC, two former building societies, as British savings and loan institutions are known, whose shares were given to depositors in the 1980s when the thrifts shed their mutual status.

Investors have done well with the shares. Abbey National stock, which is owned by about 2.2 million people, has risen 13-fold since it started trading in 1988, the first of the major building societies to do so. But such gains will be harder to come by in the future thanks to increased competition, analysts

Abbey National has consolidated its position as one of the largest financial services companies in Britain by acquiring several large British insurance next step is going to be, he said, and investors companies, including Scottish Mutual HMC Group and National & Provincial. But the retail bank faces strong competition from the commercial banks and other demutualized building societies, including Halifax, with 3.5 million shareholders, and Alliance & Leicester Bank PLC.

lain Lockhart, associate director of Tilney Investment Management in Glasgow, said: "The U.K. financial services industry will soon undergo a period of rationalization similar to that which occurred in the United States and which is now added. taking place in Europe. There are rumors of a possible merger between Abbey National and Barclays Bank PLC, but the Abbey looks over-

valued for my taste." Justin Urquart Stewart, a spokesman for Barclays Stockbrokers in London, said Abbey Na-

next step is going to be, he said, and investors would probably find better value elsewhere in the

Halifax claims to be the top provider of mort-gages in Britain, Mr. Stewart said, but its market is being nibbled at by competitors and it is struggling to find new areas of business to move into. One of the most attractive investments in this sector is the mortgage bank Northern Rock PLC, he said. The bank concentrates solely on mortgage provision and has the best products in the market, Mr. Stewart

Mr. Lockhart said that his investment choice would be Alliance & Leicester. He said its ownership of Girobank, which runs post-office banking services, will put it in a very strong position during as competition forces an industry rationalization. BARBARA WALL

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS by hard groups at STANDARD & POOR'S MICROPPAL 1: 33-1 40 28 (99 08, 0 em Advertisement March 19, 1999 To receive free daily quotations for your Lyora Resb: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or e-mail: funds@int.com http://www.Bst.com/HT/FUN/funds.htm funds subscribe at: e-funds@int.com 163*77* 1086.72 Trums Carcipa Femid 5
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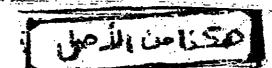
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#### THE MONEY REPORT

## The Numbers Add Up Well at NTT

By Miki Tanikawa

Nippon Telegraph & Tele-phone Co., the dominant local phone network operator, to the most widely held stock in Japan. In fact, analysts say, its extensive ownership is one reason that investors should have an exposure.

"The telecom story you are seeing globally is equally true here in Japan," said Thomas Rodes of Dresdner Kleinwort Ben-

son (Asia) Ltd., "with a little bit of time lag. As Internet use goes up, as new services are rolled out over the fixed-line network — such as data, video, phone — the

video, phone — the Figuring prominently companies that benefit the most are among widely held Japanese stocks those that own necessity. those that own network monopoly, If you have monopoly and control access to people, you are valuable. And that's NIT."

NTT is popular with fund managers, not just because its prospects are good, Mr. Rodes said, but also because it is such a critical com-

Stock Average.

"The size of the weighting in the in Tokyo.

When the outperform the Nikkei as a fund significant significant. manager, you need some NTT to match the overall composition of the index," he said.

Investors also should favor NTT if they are fans of NTT Mobile Communications Network Inc. commonly known as NTT DoCo-Mo, the top cellular carrier. It debuted on the Tokyo market in antumn in a massive 2.13 trillion yen no relationship to their earnings." (\$17.94 billion) initial public offering. NTT still holds two thirds of must include some stocks, Mr. Mat-ment, Mr. Hayashi said, as 80 per-

"You have a monopolist that utility sector as an "equity invest- train line linking Tokyo and Osaka.

owns a 67 percent of an oligopolist, ment of last resort," when market and it can be a cheap way from an conditions are adverse. All 10 ma-HERE'S GOOD reason for Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Co. The Book of the Book o DoCoMo's debut has driven its cure sources of revenue. But while shares so high that the parent com-pany's stock, now trading at 1.16 when times are tough, they sell million yen, does not fully reflect the them when they want to return to value of its stake in the subsidiary. the broader market.

But some analysts said that despite the optimistic outlook, NTT has had trouble staying above 1.2 million yen, as investors who lion yen in the late '80s

tend to sell at that level. of March 2000.

power companies considered among the most defensive issues in the Japanese market. Electric utilities have generally

performed inversely to the broad TOPIX index of stocks on the first section of the Tokyo exchange since 1985, according to Hiroshi Matsuda of Kokusai Securities Co.

utility shares surged impressively. But when the crisis calmed, these issues edged down; since the beginning of this year, Mr. Matsuda said, they have significantly lagged the rise in the market index.

Professional investors are to blame for this pattern in utility shares, whose prices, he said "have Because many fund portfolios much narrower scope for develop-

bought in at around 3 mil- HSBC Securities Japan Ltd. does

not share that view. "In many other countries in the similar slowly happening in Japan.

The milities have had a tendency to overspend on capital improveare three of the 10 regional electric ments, he noted, but there are signs they are moving to trim unneeded facilities and implement cost cuts. Mr. Evans said he was also impressed by the yields, ranging from 1.9 percent to 2.7 percent, for these electricity suppliers when the benchmark 10-year Japanese govenment bond is returning just

1.795 percent.
Railroad stocks also have exten-When the overall market dropped sive ownership. Of the three rail significantly last autumn, electric-companies privatized in the mid-1990s, East Japan Railway Co., known as JR East, is the largest and the one with the greatest room for improvement, said Douglas Hay-ashi of HSBC Securities in Tokyo. He cited potential cost-cutting and creative use of real estate assets that are part of major train stations in the Kanto area, which includes Tokyo.

Central Japan Railway Co. has a

suda said, managers opt for the cent of revenue is from the bullet-

### Seeking Out the Undervalued Large-Caps

As Big Names Outpace Broader Market, Temptation Grows to Give Up on Diversity

BROKER FRIEND of mine was grousing the other day, reflecting the frustration of many of his colthe frustration of many of his colthe that, in a global economy with lots of caa year, according to Bloomberg News, but
the P/E is only 15.

• PPG Industries Inc. The glass comgrousing the other day, reflecting the frustration of many of his colget it! They hear about the market being way up, but their stocks aren't. They want to

know what's going on. But the truth is, only a piece of the market is way up." He is right. A remarkable study by Salomon Smith Barney Inc. just found that over the past 12 months, three-quarters of all U.S. stocks were trailing the rise of the Standard & Poor's 500 index by at least 15 play, always, is sensible diversification. percentage points. High-visibility stocks Mr. Warantz and Mr. Manley suggest

are doing great, but the stocks that most people actually own,

leagues: "My clients just don't prices. Another is that strong brands, recognized worldwide, have a big edge.

Ironically, large companies seem more flexible than small. They have more products in development, so if one fails, they can get another to market, wherever the market might be.
But at this point, betting on mega-caps

pany's stock, with a yield of 3 percent and a P/E of 11 (despite long-term earnings growth of 10 percent annually), has umbled by more than a third since last

May. · Philip Morris Cos. Tobacco, of course, raises financial, legal and moral questions, and the stock has plummeted 28 percent this year. But the company, which also sells beer and food products, is growing 14 percent annually and carries a dividend

yield of 4.6 percent. It trades at a P/E of just 12 times pro-

jected earnings.

• RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. Another cigarette and

consumer products company, RJR has announced a spin-off of its tobacco business, and the future is unclear. Still, this may be an interesting buying opportunity. The stock carries a dividend yield of 6.8 percent.

• Raytheon Co. The stock has fallen 7 percent over the past 12 months and now trades at a P/E based on 1999 estimated earnings of 15, even though historic growth at the maker of electronics for missiles and radar systems has been in double digits.

• Rohm & Haas Co. Stock in this maker of specialty chemicals used in everything from laundry detergents to cell phones pays a 2.2 percent dividend and carries a P/E

growth (the dividend payout has doubled in the past five years), the aluminum com-pany's stock trades at a modest P/E ratio of 15 times projected earnings this year, about •SLM Holding Corp. Farnings are rising at 14 percent annually at the provider of financing for students known as Sallie

Mae, but the P/E is only 14.

Schlumberger Ltd. A fast grower with a market value of \$33 billion, the provider of services to the energy industry has been hurt by the fall in energy prices.

The S&P 500, the bench- JAMES K. GLASSMAN /ON INVESTING

peaks and were not in one of the four top-

performing sectors: communications

equipment and services, technology, con-

sumer cyclicals and health care. Then they

selected only stocks that were at least 20

percent below their average long-term

price-to-earnings and price-to-sales ratios.

• Alcoa Inc. With an excellent record for

That left these 10:

half the average for the S&P.

mark for most money managers, is weighted toward the large-cap broadening your portfolio by owning largegrowth stocks that are so much in favor. As caps that are out of favor. a result, last year, it returned twice as much They screened the S&P 500 for compaas the average mutual fund. nies worth at least \$5 billion that were down at least 10 percent from their 12-month

This year, the trend is continuing. The Maryland-based research firm Wiesenberger found that while the S&P had produced positive returns for the first two months of the year, the average mutual fund was in negative territory. Only 605 of the 2,374 diversified American equity funds had beaten the index.

While I sympathize with the brokers, advisers and fund managers, they are paid well to handle criticism. I worry much more about small investors who are tempted "to abandon diversification and target their portfolios toward an ever-narrowing slice of the equity market," as Jeffrey Warantz and John Manley put it in a Salomon report. "This course of action is improdent and clearly dangerous."

But what if something fundamental has

is off more than a third from its 1998 high. · Honeywell Inc. Earnings at the maker One argument in favor of large-caps is of automation systems are rising 13 percent

Haliburton Co. The energy services,

maintenance and construction company's

stock has recovered 27 percent this year but

Washington Post Service

March 19, 1999 Advertisement INTERNATIONAL FUNDS To receive tree daily quotations for your Lyora Rasb: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or e-mail funds subscribe at: o-fun 썙 GIF INC. - Ref Emp A ar Dostar Special Montant
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## Herald Eribune PORTS

# WORLD ROUNDUP IOC's Changes Are a Beginning, but Much More Is Needed

He and Ted Stevens, Republican of

balance -- by revoking the IOC's tax-

channeling billions of dollars in tele-

vision rights fees to the U.S. Olympic

The senators now have the IOC's at-

tention, and though McCain was a bit too dismissive of this exclusive club's ef-

ganization that, despite assurances from

its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch,

on Thursday, has not yet done enough to

With the arguable exception of Jean-

Committee instead of the IOC.

#### San Diego Catcher Is Out for the Year

BASERALL The San Diego Padres starting catcher Carlos Hernandez will be out for the season after undergoing surgery to repair his ruptured left Achilles' tendon. under way?

Manager Bruce Bochy said team trainer Todd Hutcheson told him the tendon was completely toru.
The surgery was performed Thursday night in San Diego. "It seemed to all go well," Bochy said.

Hernandez was injured after hit-ting a pop fly in San Diego's 7-6 exhibition victory against the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday in Tucson, Arizona. (AP)

• Joe Torre, the New York Yan-

kees manager, had surgery to remove his cancerous prostate gland and was expected to remain bospitalized for three to four days. Dr. William Catalona said he believed the disease had not spread. There is no timetable for Torre's return to the World Series champions, but Catalona said his patients typically go back to work 6 to 12 weeks after

#### Judge Explains Her View

BOXING The judge at the center of the controversial Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield draw said her view of the fight was obscured at

times by photographers.

Testifying at a New York State Senate hearing, Eugenia Williams held fast in her belief that she had judged Saturday's heavyweight unification fight as she saw it. However, after watching a tape of the bout, she said would have scored it a draw, instead of 115-113 for Holyfield.

That scoring, though, would not have changed the ultimate outcome, as it would have been a majority draw.

#### Herron Leads at Bay Hill

golf Tim Herron shot a 6-under-par 66 to take the first-round lead at the Bay Hill Invitational in Orlando, Florida. Steve Lowery was one stroke back, followed by Dicky Pride at 68.

Vijay Singh, Justin Leonard, Tom Lehman and Davis Love 3d were among a large group at 69. Defending champion Emie Els was at 74, joined by Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara. (AP)

#### South Africa in Command

CRICKET South Africa bowled out New Zealand for 222 on Friday to take command on the second day of the third test. South Africa was



Jennifer Capriati hitting to Silvija Talaja in the first round of the Lipton Championships in

Florida. Capriati won, 6-4. 6-3.

AUSANNE, Switzerland - So is the crisis over? The International Olympic Committee has begun the descent from its ivory tower by expelling six of its own, changing the way the 2006 Olympic city will be chosen and deigning to discuss its own reinvention. Is the process of redemption

I am not yet convinced, and Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican whose Commerce Committee has scheduled hearings on the scandal beginning April 14, sounds even less convinced.

The IOC actions today fall short of the reforms needed to bring transparency and accountability to the organiration," McCain said shortly after the IOC's emergency session in Lansanne ended Thursday. "Nothing I have witnessed provides any substantive movement in that direction.

McCain, it should be noted, is a politician and potential U.S. presidential can-didate with an eye for a good, foreignbased target. (A lot more Americans are familiar with the IOC than the OECD.) But unlike many IOC critics, McCain

Majorca Gets

second-leg quarterfinals.

margin over Maccabi Haifa.

timers Velerenga.

Balajic.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

The Italian league leader, Lazio,

Lokomotiv added one goal to its 3-0

The only doubt going into the matches Thursday was whether Majorca or Varteks would advance after a 0-0 draw

But after an uncertain start, the Span-

iards made the most of a home turf

advantage.

All Majorca's goals came in the second half, including two in as many minutes, with Ariel Miguel Santiago scoring in the 54th minute, Veljko Pannovic extending the lead to 2-0 in the 56th and Daniel Garcia Lara notching the

The Croats grabbed a consolation

goal in the last minute through Andrija

■ Petit Says He Will Quit Arsenal

Emmanuel Petit, who played for

France in the World Cup final, says he

his 17 months in England, Reuters re-

saying by The Mirror newspaper Fri-

"I've just had enough and I won't

But Arsenai's French manager, Ar-

He added: "The sending off left him

very down and very depressed, but that

sene Wenger, said in response to Petit's newspaper interview, "I am convinced that Emmanuel will be here at Arsenal

ported from London.

next season.

left on his contract.

thrashed Panionios, 7-0, over two

Claude Ganga, whose influence in African sports circles has been significant, the members expelled by the IOC on Wednesday for accepting inducements and payments from Salt Lake City bid officials were minor figures. Kim Un Yong of South Korea, a

begin regaining our trust.

member of the IOC's most powerful Alaska, have threatened to strike the body, the executive board, is still under investigation. But, for the moment, he IOC where it hurts most - in the bank has only received a warning from the IOC. Phil Coles of Australia, a key fig-ure in Sydney's successful bid for the exempt status in the United States and 2000 Games, has also received a warning, although his post could be in jeop-ardy if his former wife's allegation can be substantiated that he accepted a gift of jewelry from the head of Athens's bid for the 1996 Olympics.

Vantage Point / CHRISTOPHER CLAREY

forts to initiate reform this week — some sponsors and U.S. Olympic officials were more receptive — he is right to remain skeptical and critical of an or-After speaking with Coles on Friday, the IOC said its executive board would begin a new investigation into Coles and the jewelry, taking the inquiry away from the panel whose work resulted in the six expulsions. That also removed Dick Pound, the panel chairman, from the picture. He is a vice president of the IOC and is a longtime friend of Coles.

Despite these steps, it would be much more reassuring if the IOC became proactive in its internal inquiries instead of reactive, if it would seek to confirm and flush out rumor instead of waiting passively for documentation to arrive.

The IOC did make significant changes in the selection process for the 2006 Winter Olympics. Cutting off visits by the general membership to the candidate cities is a reasonable approach to reducing the risk of bribery. It also makes economic sense. Turin, one of the 2006 candidates, had budgeted approximately \$600,000 for IOC visits.

But after initially suggesting that the general IOC membership would be supped of the right to vote for host cities, Samaranch and the executive board retrenched because of internal opposition. The IOC membership will now make the final choice between two cities, and the panel that will choose those finalists on the day of the vote will be composed of a clear majority of IOC members.

So much for radical reform. It would also be much more convincing if Sa-maranch were not chairman of the new IOC 2000 committee that is supposed to rethink the IOC and recommend po-tentially major changes and if Samaranch did not have the power to choose the IOC representatives and out-

siders who will serve on it.

If the IOC still wants Samaranch for president - and the secret ballot vote of 86-2 was a surprisingly overwhelming. show of support - so be it. But he has already had 18 years to propose and push reforms that might have eliminated cor-ruption. It certainly would be better for objective outsiders to have an unfettered look. Instead, the outsiders, who will owe their posts to Samaranch, will have to brainstorm in concert with the IOC. That sends the wrong signal, as does the strong presence of IOC members on the new ethics commission, which was supposedly created to police the IOC.

But Marc Hodler, the IOC member whose allegations of corruption helped-expose the scandal, is optimistic that significant changes will be proposed.
"The future IOC could be composed

of a group representing the International Sports Federations, a group representing the National Olympic Committees, a group representing the athletes and a group representing the cities interested in hosting Olympic Games," Hodler

Hodler already has seen huge changes in sports since he joined the IOC in 1963. He has seen the end of amateurism, with all its inherent hypocrisy, and the rise of commercialism.

He has seen the Games grow massively in size and reach. Now, he has seen the IOC lose its credibility, but no matter what the committees recommend Hodler and the other members should know that getting it back completely will require years of Olympian effort.

#### ■ Sponsor Is Not Satisfied

A major Olympics sponsor said that Samaranch was jeopardizing the future of the scandal-riddled International Olympic Committee by insisting on picking the members of the commission that will lead reforms, Agence France-Presse reported from Washington. Dave D'Alessandro, president of John' Hancock Munal Life Insurance Co., a

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major sponsor of the Olympics, said Samaranch's handpicking the commit-tee "continues its incestnous nature."

"Samaranch should have been much stronger," D'Alessandro said, "He has got a potentially enterprise-killing scan-dal on his hands. I see this as a continuation of the nobility attitude -'Please media, please sponsors, leave us alone, and we will go off and study so we can come back with the least that we can get away with.'

Ken Duberstein, a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee panel investigating the scandal, said of the IOC's actions: "This is not cleaning house. This is the. beginning of the cleaning of one room.

## The Goals and Place in Semis The Associated Press LONDON — Real Majorca beat Varteks, 3-1, to complete the Cup Winners' Cup semifinal quartet as Chelsea, Lazio and Lokomotiv Moscow advanced as expected after Thursday's second-leg quarterfinals The current cup holder, Chelsea, converted its 3-0 first-leg lead into a 6-2 advantage over the Norwegian part-

RECORD SKI JUMP — Martin Schmitt of Germany raising a ski in celebration Friday after setting a new world ski jumping record of 214.5 meters (234.5 yards) at the World Cup event in Planica, Slovenia.

## France Seeks to Change Tack in Clash With England

physical fortitude that took the team to consecutive grand slams if it is to have any chance against England in never before played together.
the Five Nations rugby union championship at Twick- Beziers flanker Richard Castel replaces Marc the Five Nations rugby union championship at Twick-

enham on Saturday. France, champion in 1997 and 1998, scrambled to beat Ireland in Dublin and were then deservedly dewill leave Arsenal at the end of the season after being sent off four times in feated by Wales in a thriller at the Stade de France

"We must recover our mental and physical strength and play a different game from how we played during the first half against the Welsh," said the team manchange my mind." he was quoted as ager, Jo Maso. England was unconvincing against Scotland but far more impressive in its following game against Ireland where its forwards looked as good as any pack in the world.

Although France played a full part in one of the most exciting matches of recent times against Wales, its no. 8 after returning to something close to his best form tackling was weeful and its forwards shadows of the against Ireland, with Richard Hill on the blindside magnificent eight who rampaged through Europe last flank. season. The problems in the French pack had been Dal highlighted by the dramatic decline in the fortunes of can bounce back with a vengeance."

prop Christian Califano. is because he is a professional footballer. Califano, probably the player of the season last year Saturday, and few Irish fans will need reminding that but now troubled by injury, has been left out of the side their team has not won at Murrayfield since 1985. But we didn't mention anything about him leaving. After all he has four years for the match Samrday in favor of Sylvian Marconnet.

France has made five changes in an attempt to inject other game drawn, Ireland coach Warren Gatland said: LONDON - France must rediscover the mental and extra steel into the team, with the most significant coming in the back row where the three involved have

Stade Francais coming in at No. 8. Thomas Lievremont

#### FIVE NATIONS RUGBY

will move to blindside flanker. In another change that reflects French concern at the poor tackling against Wales, center Pascal Giordani makes his debut in place of the injured Richard Dourthe.

England has reverted to Mike Catt in place of the injured Paul Grayson but is otherwise unchanged.

Dallaglio has prepared for a French backlash. "They Scotland vs. Iroland Ireland travels to Scotland on

"We should not look back at the past. We had not done." well against France but we almost beat them this

Beziers flanker Richard Castel replaces Marc Gatland, who believes that the game Saturday is not Raynaud on the open side with Christophe Juillet of an end in itself, added, "We see it as a stepping stone to our tour of Australia in the summer and then the World. Cup." Gatland is looking for an improved perfor-. mance after a below-par display against England and expects a close battle Saturday.

Scotland's only change from its 30-12 victory over Italy two weeks ago is the return of scrumhalf and captain Gary Armstrong after an elbow injury. Gatland believes that the settled nature of the Scotland side will be advantageous for the hosts.

'Overall this a strong Scotland team, well coached by Jim Telfer and able to go the full 80 minutes," Gatland said. "I'm impressed with what they've done this season."

For Ireland, this is its final match of an up and down season and one in which it would want to reassert itself. For Scotland, as Tom Smith, the Scottish prop, confirmed, there is more at stake. "We recognize that the Ireland game is very important because if we lose on Saturday we will then go to Paris with only one win and Scotland has won 10 of the last 11 meetings with the that's not a position we want to be in.

#### SCOREBOARD BASEBALL Sociemento Golden State LA Chippers

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

Tompo Bay 7, Boston 1 Minnesota 7, Texas 2, 7 innings, 1st game sota 9. Teras 7. 7 innings, 2nd game Florida S. Bottlenore 4 Alfonda 2. Torondo 1 Los Angeles 9, St. Louis (ss.) 3 Plashagh 7, Philodelphia 6 St. Louis (ss.) 5. Monda (ss.) 1 Angheim 13, Colorado : Aguna 11, Oakland 6 isco & Scottle Millengikee & Chicago Cabs 3 Korsos City 3, Houston 2 Montresi (as) 1& New York Mets 7

BASKETBALL NBA STANDINGS Pct .783 .720 .591 ,304 602 625 549 351 261 201 .763 .680 .571 .522

### LIDAY RESULTS e6-15 12-12 24 Eisley 7-11 0-0 17 W: Strickland 8-153-421, Howard 9-222-220. Robounds: Utch 54 (Osterlag 12), Washington SZ (Thorpe 12), Assists: Utch 27

New York C. Hordoway B-151-227 25 45 15-74 C. Hordoway B-151-279, D. Armstrong 7-17 3-3 16; N.Y.: Houston 8-16 0-1 18; Thomas 8-11 1-2 17. Rehavmists Oriendes 34 (Dolesce 8), New York 39 (Duelley 10), Assists: Carada 18 (D. Armstrong 10), New York 19 (Johnson, 1998). 22 24 21 24-93

Cleveland 26 27 22 25-100 Lakers: O'Heal 14-25 5-7 37, Rica 9-21 3-3 24: C. Kemp 7-154-8 20, B.Knight 6-11 8-9 20. Rebounds: Lakers 44 (O'Neal 19), Cleveland 50 (Kemp 9). Assists: Lakers 23 (Bryant, Rice and 26 (Person, B.Knight 6). 26 32 16 9-83 24 27 26 22-99

n- Wolker 6-15 7-8 16. Anderson 5-6 4-4 14. M: Robinson 7-14 7-9 Z3, Allen 9-12 0-8 21. Rehovads: Boston 56 (Ballie 11), Milwaukee 44 (Workship B). Assists: Boston 16 (Anderson 4), Milwaukee 23 (Workman 8). 27 23 19 30- 95 30 20 30 34-194 Chicage 30 20 30 24--19-N.J.: Morbury 7-24 8-12 24, Killes 8-14 0-1 20: C. Kukoc 7-16 6-9 21, Horper 7-13 4-5 18.
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Rebeards: New Jersey 52 (Humons 15), Chicago 58 (Kukoc 11). Assists: New Jersey 2) (Marbory 10), Chicago 32 (Brown, Kukoc 22 23 24 14-78 P: Walloc: 10-17 5-7 25, Rider 6-15 2-3 14: S: Webber 8-19 0-0 16, Divoc 5-14 1-2 11. bounds: Portland 64 (Wallace 13),

dunke 11), Sociamento 19

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V: Recres 19-18-8-13 28. Abdur-Ruhim 3-1)
5-16-27. Rebounds: Mitmeson 60 (LiSmith 12), Vencetiver 57 (Recres 13). Assists:
Minneson 21 (Brandon 12), Vencetiver 15

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Suffiven, Nucleusity Operations: 0. Shells on pool. P. 3, 5-13, 2-22, 5.1...) 16-9-5-1—31. 16 27 17 26- 86

## ICEHOCKEY **NHL STANDINGS** THEAST DIVISION 30 25 14 74 179 170 25 25 17 67 170 177 28 34 6 62 177 180 16 46 5 37 142 35 25 8 78 189 149 26 32 10 62 183 193 25 33 10 60 188 188 20 37 11 51 163 209

1st Per.: Carolina, Francis 16 (Sheppard, Wassier) (pp). 28 Per.: C-Foote 4 (Hejdul, Sokic) 3. C-Hejdul 11 (Sokic, Forsberg) (pp). 34 Per.: C-Sakic 33 (Forsberg, Matte) 5. Carolina, Kovatenka 16 (Hill) Shess on goal: os Angeles Tist Per.; A-Marshall 7 (Kartya, Sek

Per: A-Selarine 38 (McInnis, Kariya) (pp) 36 Per: A-Kariya 30, (pp), 4, L.A., Audath strom) & A-Selanne 39 (Kartya) Shots a good: A. 9-7-8-24, L.A. 16-12-11-39. Gooding: A-Hebert, L.A.-Fiset.

CRICKET HEW ZEALAND VS. SOUTH APRICA 30 AND FINAL TEST, 20 DAY SHELLER IN WELLINGTON

rlelangut Holtan-Let Aynex 2y Twaachis FRIDAY IN DILAKA, BANGLADESH mbabwe: 272-6 in 50 overs. (enya: 139 ail oul in 44. Zimbabwe wan by 133 rens.

anovilae touski Pakifyan vs. Shi lanka Sri Lantar 237 off out in 49.3 overs.

#### SOCCER

CUP WINNERS' CUP GUARTERFONALS, RETURN LEG ab) Holio. Ist., O Lokomoliv Russio, 1 Lokymotiv won 4-0 on aggregate. /alerenge, Norway, 2 Cheisec, England, 3 Votersing, From 7.2 transm., Empiric, S. Chelper won 6-2 on aggregate, Lazio, Italy, 3 Panionios Alhens, Grecce, 0 Lazio won 7-0 on aggregate, Addiens, Sp., 2 Variots Vanzalla, Crooks, Mallanca won 3-1 on aggregate.

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1st log April & reform April 20. LIBERTADORES CUP FIRST ROUND

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#### TENNIS DAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLA.

Cecil Manill, U.S., vo... U.S., 46, 62, 7-S. Sjeng Schallen, Ne and M. Novak, Crech R. 6-2, 6-1. Magnus Norman, Swe, del. Hicken Arad, Nor., 6-1, 6-1; Bab Bryan, U.S., del. Sargis Mor., 6-1, 6-1; 8ob Bryon, U.S., def. Sergis Sergaistr, Armenia 6-1, 6-1. Whyne Buck, Zhu, def. David Princial, Gar., 1-6, 7-6, 9-7), 6-4; Sebastien Grosjean, Franca def. Lutrence Treleman, ft., 6-1, 7-5. Davide Sangoineris, Italy, def. Gollicume Rusus, France, 6-2, 6-2; Adrian Volman, Romenia, def. David Caldwell, U.S., 6-0, 6-1. Alex O'Brien, U.S., def. Sebastien Lurana, Canada, 7-5, 7-6 (2-7); Andrew Ilia, Australia, def. Cata Billeran, Social, 6-1, 6-4.

Connote, 7-4, 7-4 (9-7): Andrew Ille, Australia, del. Galo Blanco, Spain, 6-1, 6-4. Viscent Spadea, U.S., del. Franco Squillori. Arg., 6-3, 6-2; Armoud Clement Franco, del. John Von Lafturn. Nath., 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-4. Scati Dropper, Aus., del. Marriano Puesta. Arg., 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; Lleyton Hewitt, Australia. 6-6; Mark. Woodfords. Asstralia. 6-2, 6-1. Nicolast Escade. Franco, del. Steve Compbell, U.S., 7-5, 4-6, 6-2; Konneth Corisen, Den. del Scare Federer. Systin. 7-5, 7-6, 17-6. del, Roger Federas, Switz., 7-5, 7-6 (7-4). Jann A. Marin, C. Rico, def. Michael Char Jenn A, Morin, C. Rico, def. Michael Chong, U.S., 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (9-7); Christian Rund, Nor., def. Petr Kardu, Casch R. 6-2, 7-4 (8-4). Duniel Vocale, Casch R. def. Martino Zobalella, Arg., 6-4. 6-4; Hendrik Dreelamenn, Ger., def. Richey Reseberg, U.S. 6-3, 7-5. Stava Dosedel, Casch R. def. Amaud Di Pesquale, Fr., 6-2, 6-2, Deminik Hiroty, Sjoudia, def. Yoones El Ayricout, Mor., 6-3, 6-1. Jon. Michael Gambill, U.S., def. Xovier Mo-

Agiam, 7-5, 6-2: Boris Bector, Ge Auca Pozzi, Italy, 6-4, 1-4, 6-4. HANGE & PRIME CHRICA TRAINS Melisso Middleton, U.S., def. Lari McNeil, U.S., 7-6 (7-1), 2-6, 6-3: Miles Saeki, Japan, with S. Aft., def. Olgo Baro

banechikova, Sel. 6-2: 6-3; Rita Grande, It. def. María Sanchez Lorenzo, Sp. 7-5: 6-3.
Elena Tatoricova. Ulordine, def. Sandra Carle, U.S. 6-3: 6-1; Elena Wagner, Germany, def. Shi-Ting Wang, Teiwan, 6-4, 3-6: 7-5.
Rusandra Dragandiz Rom., def. Maria Alejandra Verita, Ver. 6-2: 6-1; Firmg Li. Chi., def. Alanda Defrances. Britany Carlo, Carlo, S. 1 paig Dechaume-Baseret, Fr., 7-6 (7-0, 6-3 Brie Rippner, U.S., def. Ales

Alich Mellen Gerst, Czech R. 6-3, 7-5.
Alich Melle Australia, def, June Chi, U.S.,
6-1, 6-2; Mirjana Lucic, Croafia, def, Mellin
Tu, U.S., 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Ta, U.S., 3-6, 6-1, 6-4.
Fobiola Zutruge, Cotembla, det Jonet Lee,
Fobiola Zutruge, Cotembla, det Jonet Lee,
Fobiola Co-Sarifer Capriali. U.S. det.
Silvita Toloja. Conflo, 6-4, 6-3.
Anne Kremer, Lux. det, Kresta Hralischava,
Czech R. 3-6, 7-5, 6-4. Then Pisnik. Stovalda,
def. Conflo Marania, U.S., 7-5, 6-0.
Barbara Ritinez, Ger., def. Christina Papadoki, Gru., 6-2, 2-4, 6-1; Syrvia Planchia. Ausfrig., def. Sandari Kielporta, Crach. R. 6-1, 6-2.
Author Weinspriber, Grach. R. 6-1, 6-2.
Author Weinspriber, Ger., def. Lactivelible Mariene Weingartner, Ger., del. Jack Trol. U.S. 7-5 6-4 Mg Total U.S., \*\*Camerina Transcription Thai. 6-3.7-5.
Calciling Cristine, Rom., def. Galat Leon Gaz-do. Sp., 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, Anna Smeathnave, Ist., def. Jans Kanderr, Ger. 2-4, 7-6, 7-2, 6-4.
Total Strytter, U.S., def. Kingberty Po, U.S., 6-1, 6-2; Kristing Brandi, U.S., def. Santamina Reaves, U.S., 6-1, 6-2.

PRODAY REPULTA umpe suidLET

PROFIT SUNGLES

FROM TOURS

Jim Couries, U.S. def. Jon Frode Andersen,
Nor., 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 Romon Delpada, Por., def.
Ramier Schwiffer, Ger., 7-6 (7-5), 6-1.
Andrei Paret, Rom., def. Chie Woodroff,
U.S., 6-3, 6-3; Martin Danna, Czech R., def.
Todd Woodridge, Aus., 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.
Andrei Madredee, Ula. def. Justin Glamisioh, U.S., 6-1, 6-1. Junifracità, Siovalda, def.
Parofel Angent Lieff. 6-6. Poul Hornius, Nett. def. Leff Tomage. U.S. 6-4. 7-5 Nicolas Lapentik Ecs. def.

FIRST ROUGH) Mary Joe Fernandez, U.S., def. Adriana Mary Joe Fernander. U.S., diel. Adhema Serro-Zonett, Holy, 6-Q. 6-Q. Tathana Pasava. Russia, def. Paulo Souruz, Arg., 6-4, 6-3. Sabhe Applemans, Boijions, def. Els Cal-lens, Belg., 6-3, 6-4; Lillo Calagint, U.S., Chio, del. Mashana Washington, U.S., 6-3, 6-2. Aughors Weshington, U.S. of 3, 6-2, Megham Stooghesty, U.S. dat. Nicole Profit Aus., 7-6 (7-1), 6-2; Michae Rosson, Sp. del. Lotte Nellond, Lotte Nellond, Lotte No. 6-3, second ROUND

### TRANSITIONS

LA LAKERS--Fined F Dénois Rud NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

ger Neison for 2 games and fined trim \$10,00 for incident on March 16 against St. Louis

#### THE WEEK AREAD SATURDAY, MARCH 20

put toda — Triangular tournament, Patistan vs. Srl Lantar. Ohaka, Bangindeah — 3-nation tournament. Zimbahwe vs. Kenya, Dhaka, Bangiadeah — 3-nation tour-nament. Bangiadeah vs. Kenya. oversiele, Milan-San Remo Classic. secreta tukenia. Partugal Rathy, In March 24.

RUGEY Undors, Five Nations: England Vs. France Scotland vs. Ireland. SKI FLYING, Planter, Slovenia — 185K Hall to March 21.

merican Under-17 Champlomship, to Me Services, Costo Rica — UNCAF Not Corp., to March 28. U.S. Major League Ser

itevideo, Uruguay -

SUNDAY, MARCH 21 canceur, Dhaka, Sangladesh — 3-no-lon formanieri, Bungladesh vs. Zimbelen Pactura setarawa, Helshak — World Figura Stafing Championahips, to Morch 28, soccosts, Wembley, England — English

MONDAY, MARCH 22 Prix Hosson II. to Morch 28. CET, Nogpur, India — 3-nation ( Papsi Cup. India vs. 5r) Lanka

TUESDAY, MARCH 23 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

CREOKET, Joiput, India - 3-nation tour-

Czech Republic vs., Lithocalo. SUMDAY, MARCH 2001

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THURSDAY, MARCH 25

CRICKEY, Dhake, -- 3-notion for ragiociesh vs. Zimbobwe. Nor od vs. S. Africa, 4th 1-day into Amer. 4th 1-day international. Cook. Santo da Serra, Madelau — men. Madelau Island Open. to March 28. Ponte Vedra Beach. Florida — men. THE PLAY-ERS Champhorship. to March 28. Rancho Misage. California — women. Dinah Shore. to March 28. Okryama, Japan — men. Just. system KSB Open. to March 28.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26 SOCIONA, European Complesship 2009; Portugal vs. Azerbatjon. RUGEY CHINDA Mark Kont Mark RUGEY CHRON, Hong Kong -long Rugby Sevens, to Merch 28. CROCKET, St. Michael, Barbados

indies vs. Australia to March 30. GOLF, Milton, Florida — senior

SATURDAY, MARCH 27 ATHLETTICS, Belfast N. Irekana — World cas Country Championships, to March 28, CRECKET, Vizog, India — 3 nations four-

nament, Pakiston vs. Sri Lanko, Dhak nadon taymament, Snal notion tournament, Maca.

SCICCER, European Championatis 2000: —
Bebrus Vs. Switzerlant: Demanric Vs. Holys
Greece Vs. Norway: Georgia Vs. Switzerlant
Northern Irakand vs. Georgamy: Turkey Vs., 18
Maktowa Andorra Vs. Icelands Argentio Vs., 18
Buscles Ermere Vs. Ultraines Sweden Vs., Libra. Russic: France vs. Utscorne; Sweden vs. Libr embourg England vs. Polands Spelares ASPA Via Hungary vs. Liectiensteine Resonate vs. Slovelde Macadonie vs. Irolands Vapadinie vs. Cradia: Scalland vs. Bassia: Hezzagodonie Vserb Bassia: Hezzagodonie

New Zealand vs. South Africa, Sitt one day Horses nacence. Dubut United Arch J.
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ing — Formule One Argentine Granifold.
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**SPORTS** 

## O'Neal Sets the Pace **But Cavaliers Win It**

Wilson

Shaquille O'Neal dominated the ning streak. game, and the Cleveland Cavaliers won Bucks 39.

wasn't enough to overcome the Cavaliers, who got 20 points each from Shawn Kemp and Brevin Knight and 18 from Wesley Person to beat the Lakers while Antoine Walker led Boston with

100-93 Thursday night.

who packed Gund Arena. "It was good teamwork," Kemp said. "The crowd came out tonight and gave us a lot of help out there. The fellows just

us a lot of help out there. The fellows just picked away at it."

The Cavs have been playing without a true center since losing 7-foot-3 Zydrunas Ilganskas to injury and trading away Vitaly Potapenko.

But O'Neal's big night wasn't enough.

But O'Neal's big night wasn't enough to offset the Cavs' balanced attack. Even 24 points from Glen Rice wasn't enough for the Lakers, playing their third straight game without Dennis Rodman, who left the team last week to attend to 14-0 run to put the game away. personal business.

The Lakers dropped to 10-2 under heir new coach, Kurt Rambis.

Grizziles 86, Timberwolves 81 Tile Grizzlies, at home in Vancouver, ended a 13-game skid as Bryant Reeves had 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 11 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter.

Well, thank God for that, that's all I can say," said Brian Hill, the Grizzlies coach. "I'm getting tired of losing basketball games. This was a character

Trailing 77-71 with 4:49 left, Vancouver outscored the Timberwolves 15-4 the rest of the way for its first victory since beating the Lakers on Feb. 23. Abdur-Rahim's fast-break dunk with 1:57 left gave the Grizzlies the lead for good at 78-77.

Jazz 95, Wizards 87 Howard Eisley scored 17 points, including 13 straight for Utah in the second half, and the Jazz won their sixth consecutive game.

Karl Malone added 24 points, including 12-of-12 from the line, as the Jazz book an 18-2 lead in Washington and never trailed.

Rod Strickland, back after missing six games with a groin injury, had 21 points and 11 assists for the Wizards.

Stagic 86, Knicks 78 Michael Doleac scored 12 of his 16 points in the final quarter, and fellow rookie Matt Harpring was 6-for-6 from the line in the final three and a half minutes as Orlando won in New York for its fourth straight victory. Allan Houston had 18 points and Kurt
Thomas 17 for the Knicks, who had just two field goals in the first 11 minutes of

Penny Hardaway had 19 points and Darrell Armstrong 18 for the Magic,

who ended the Knicks' three-game win-

cake 99, Ceitice 83 Glenn Robinson O'Neal scored 37 points and grabbed seven of his 21 points in a 13-0 run late in the game in Milwankee as the Bucks

The Cave also received a big boost from the more than 20,000 home fans points and 11 rebounds, and Ron Harper scored 10 of his 18 points in the third quarter to lift the Bulls in Chicago.

It was their second victory in 10 days

Blazers with 25 points and 13 re-

The Kings, who got 16 points and 20 rebounds from Chris Webber, led 75-74 with 5:15 left, but the Blazers went on a

■ Rodman Expected Back Soon

The Los Angeles Lakers expect Dennis Rodman to return to the team shortly, The Associated Press reported from Los

"Apparently, he's making some pro-gress taking care of the personal business he needs to take care of," said John Black,

Asked if he expected Rodman to rejoin the Lakers before the team heads home, Black replied, "That we're not ure of; hopefully."

The Associated Press

DENVER -- Joe Sakic had a goal

and two assists and Milan Hejduk ad-

ded a goal and an assist as the Colorado

Avalanche won for only the second

time in nine home games, bearing the

Adam Foote got his first goal since

stopped 27 shots Thursday in winning

Montreal, Turner Stevenson scored the

go-ahead goal midway through third period, and Patrick Poulin had two assists in Montreal's victory

his 404th game in the National Hockey

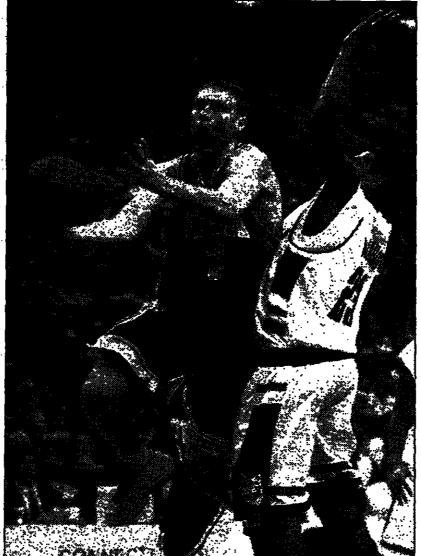
Feb. 14 for the Avalanche. Patrick Roy vol Demitra's goal with 7:42 left in

Ron Francis got his 404th goal and regulation gave St. Louis a tie with Andre Kovalenko his third goal in five Phoenix.

eriod, and Patrick Poulin had two deflected in Jeremy Roenick's shot stars. In Montreal's victory over from the right point. Mike Stapleton

Carolina Hurricanes, 3-2.

games with the Hurricanes.



Iowa guard Jason Baner scoring past Albert Mourning of Connecticut.

Avalanche Rumbles Over Hurricanes, 3-2

Vladimir Malakhov and Vincent

Damphousse also scored for Montreal,

which won its third straight game after trading its leading scorer, Mark Recchi, to Philadelphia. Saku Koivu had an

assist and now has 12 points in as many

Coyotas 2, Blues 2 In St. Louis, Pa-

NHL ROUNDEP

Greg Adams tied the game, 1-1, at 8:05 of the third period with a power

play goal when he bumped the Blues

goalie, Grant Fuhr, out of position and

## **Connecticut Beats And Beats Up Iowa**

Huskies Will Meet Gonzaga in West Final

By Thomas George New York Times Service

PHOENIX, Arizona - Connecticut and Iowa decided from the start that their Round of 16 matchup in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament would boil down to this: One team

was going down.
Literally. On the deck, With a push and a shove. No gentle

nudge.
This game got nasty. Connecticut took its blows and made sure its shots lasted longer. It was more than a game of survival and a game light on artistry. There was a con-

frontational air to Connecti-

cut and Iowa on Thursday night, and the Huskies proved better at bump-and-grind basket-ball, winning, 78-68, before 17,975 fans. Was it basketball, or football? The

crowd must have wondered. But it was basketball, elbow-in-your-back style, and a rugged tussle for the final eight. Include

(20-10), who were inspired by the emotion surrounding the forced departure of Coach Tom Davis after 13 seasons at the school. The Huskies advanced and will and the final total of 62 tied the Terps' meet Gonzaga (28-6) in Phoenix on Sat- low for the season. urday for the West Regional title and a trip to the Final Four.

Forward Richard Hamilton led Connecticut with 24 points.

The game was tied at 44-44 with 15 minutes 29 seconds to play, and Connecticut led by only 59-55 with 6:15 left. But Iowa wilted in the stretch — tired, bruised and unable to match the punch of It was the Huskies' insistence on run-

ning every fast-break chance and their interior defense that also frustrated Iowa. Connecticut handled Iowa's full-court rally and simply was the more talented team with stronger staying power.
In the final minutes, Connecticut

and fouling. Talent and composure. Connecticut offered a convincing display. In other games, The Associated Press reported:

Gonzaga 73, Florida 72 Casey Calvary's tip-in with 4.4 seconds left gave 10th-seeded Gonzaga a victory over Florida in the other West Regional semifinal in Phoenix.

After Jeremy Eaton's layup pulled Gonzaga within one, Florida's Brent Wright traveled with 15 seconds left to give the ball back to the Bulldogs. Quentin Hall drove to the basket and

missed, but Calvary, who had 10 points in the second half, tipped it in. Florida had one more chance, but Eddie Shannon missed an off-balance 3-pointer at

the buzzer. Richie Frahm led Gonzaga with 17 points, while Greg Stolt paced Florida

with 16. closed the first half with a 20-0 run and went on to beat secondseeded Maryland in a South Regional semifinal in Knoxville, Tennessee.

"The first half was in credible, particularly the defense," said Mike Jarvis, St. John's coach. "Until I was told at halftime we had a 20-0 run, I didn't know how good a run it was."

Maryland finally came alive midway through the second half, but it wasn't enough to avoid losing in the round of 16 for the fourth time in six

Erick Barkley led third-seeded St. John's with 24 points. Steve Francis, Connecticut (31-2) in that group. with 13 points, was the only player in double figures for Maryland, which shot.

Ohio State 72, Auburn 64 Ohio State,

which finished last in the Big Ten a year ago, broke open a tie game with nine! straight points down the stretch and beat top-seeded Auburn in the other South Regional semifinal. "Just when I ask myself, 'Can they do

any more?,' they surprise me and do more.' said Ohio State coach Jim O'Brien, whose Buckeyes went 8-22 last

Brian Brown's free throw broke a 61-61 tie with 2:41 left, and fourth-seeded Ohio State opened a 70-61 lead before; pressure, responded to each Hawkeye Auburn's Doc Robinson banked in a 3pointer with 6.5 seconds left.

Auburn, which hadn't been to the round of 16 since 1986, became the first broke the game open, making its free No. 1 seed to fall in this year's tour-throws while Iowa kept missing its shots nament. The Southeastern Conference's highest-scoring team missed seven straight shots after Scott Pohlman's 3pointer tied it 61-61.

St. John's will meet Ohio State on Saturday in Knoxville for the regional championship.

The other regional semifinals were to be played Friday night. In the East, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, Duke faces Southwest Missouri State, and Purdue plays Temple. In the Midwest, Michigan State plays Oklahoma, and Miami of Ohio faces Kennicky, both in

### DENNIS THE MENACE







Nashville.



IT'S GREAT TO SEE ALL YOU COOL CATS OUT THERE!

BEETLE BAILEY

OFF THE TEAM?

\*YOU KNOW WHO" IS IN RIGHT FIELD "YOU KNOW AGAIN.





then scored on a bouncing shot from for the NHL lead with 39 goals.

















just inside the blue line at 11:00 to give

Phoenix a 2-1 advantage.

Demitra salvaged the tie for the

Blues 1:18 later when he scored his

Mighty Ducks 4, Kings 2 In Inglewood, California, Paul Kariya had a

goal and three assists, including two on

goals by Teemu Selanne, as Anaheim

six straight against Los Angeles, dating

to last season. Los Angeles saw its three-game winning streak end.

Guy Hebert stopped 37 shots but lost his shutout when Donald Audette's

slap shot went through his legs at 11:37

Selanne's second goal, at 16:51 of the third, tied Ottawa's Alexei Yashin

The Ducks have won a record-tying

team-leading 32d goal.

defeated Los Angeles.

of the third.

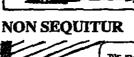






















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#### **DAVE BARRY**

### Mounds O'Metal

MIAMI — If there's one thing this nation needs, it's bigger cars. That's why I'm excited that Ford is coming out with a new mound o' metal that will offer consumers even more total road-squatting mass than the current leader in the humongous-car category, the popular Chevrolet Suburban Subdivision — the first passenger automobile designed to be, right off the assembly line, visible from the Moon.

I don't know what the new Ford will be called. Probably something like the "Ford Untamed Wilderness Adventure," In the TV commercials, it will be shown splashing through rivers, charging up rocky mountainsides, swinging on vines. diving off cliffs, racing through the surf and fighting giant sharks hundreds of feet beneath the ocean surface — all the daredevil things that cars do in Sport Utility Vehicle Commercial World, where nobody ever drives on an actual road.

In fact, the interstate highways in Sport Utility Vehicle Commercial World, having been abandoned by humans, are teeming with deer, squirrels, birds and other wildlife species that have fled from the forest to avoid being run over by nature-seekers in multi-ton vehicles barreling through the

underbrush at 50 miles per hour.

In the real world, of course, nobody drives Sport Utility Vehicles in the forest, because when you have paid upwards of

Watch for the

ness adventure"

vehicle.

"untamed wilder-

\$40,000 for a transportation investment, the last thing you want is squirrels pooping on it. In the real world, what people mainly do with their Sport Utility Vehicles, as far as I can tell, is try to maneuver them into and out of parking spaces. I base this statement on my local super-

market, where many of the upscale patrons drive Chevrolet Subdivisions. I've noticed that these people often purchase just a couple of items — maybe a bottle of diet water and a two-ounce package of low-fat dried carrot shreds — which they put into the back of their Subdivisions, which have approximately the same cargo capacity, in cubic feet, as Finland. This means there is plenty of room left over in case, on the way home, these people need to pick up a herd of bison.

Then comes the scary part: getting the Subdivision out of the parking space. This is a challenge, because the driver apparently cannot see all the way to either end of the vehicle. I drive a compact car, and on a number of occasions I have found myself trapped behind a Subdivision backing directly toward me, its massive metal butt looming high over my head, making

me feel like a Tokyo pedestrian looking up at Godzilla.

I've tried honking my horn, but the Subdivision drivers can't hear me because they're always talking on cellular phones the size of Chiclets. ("The Bigger Your Car, the Smaller Your Phone" is their motto.) I don't know who they're talking to. Maybe they're trying to contact somebody in the same area code as the rear ends of their cars so they can find out what's going on back there, All I know is, I'm thinking of carrying marine

We'll all be very hard to hear inside the wheel wells.

run me over. Although frankly I'm not sure they'd care if they did. A big reason why they bought a Sport Utility Vehicle is "safety," in the sense of, "you, personally, will be

flares, to warn Subdivision

drivers that they're about to

safe, although every now and then you may have to clean the remains of other motorists out of your wheel wells.' Anyway, now we have the new Ford, which will be EVEN LARGER than the Subdivision, which I imagine means it will have separate decks for the various classes of passengers, and possibly, way up in front by the hood ornament, Leonardo DiCaprio showing Kate Winslet how to fly.

I can't wait until one of these babies wheels into my

supermarket parking lot. Other motorists and pedestrians will try to flee in terror but they'll be sucked in by the Ford's powerful gravitational field and become stuck to its massive sides like so many refrigerator magnets. They won't be noticed, however, by the Ford's driver, who will be busy

and has fallen deep into his or her ear canal. And it will not stop there. This is America, darn it, and Chevrolet is not about to just sit by and watch Ford walk away with the coveted title of Least Sane Motor Vehicle.

whacking at the side of his or her head, trying to dislodge his or her new cell phone, which is the size of a single grain of rice

No, cars will keep getting bigger: I see a time when upscale suburbanites will haul their overdue movies back to the videorental store in full-size, 18-wheel tractor-trailers with names like "The Vagabond." It will be a proud time for all Americans, a time for us to cheer for our country. We should cheer loud, because we'll be hard to hear inside the wheel wells.

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## All the World's in Love With Shakespeare

By Michiko Kakutani New York Times Service

TEW YORK --- Only two years ago, a report that two-thirds of America's leading universities had dropped the Shakespeare requirement for English majors in favor of courses on popular culture and that the playwright — regarded by many leftist ideologues as the quintessential Dead White Male - was becoming a has-been, a victim of the commissars of political correctness and watered-down curriculums.

Today, happily, it is clear that such reports of Shakespeare's demise were vastly exaggerated. He is still the most produced playwright in 1990s America, and in England he was recently voted in one BBC poll the Briton of the millennium.

There are replicas of the Globe Theater in London and Tokyo, and in Germany his birthday prompts an annual celebration. As the scholar Jonathan Bate, author of "The Genius of Shakespeare." points out, the Bard has become "a world genius" with a "crosscultural appeal" that defies both the debunking of academic radicals and the stuffy canonization of traditionalists.

"Shakespeare in Love" — a witty movie that works an improvisation on the playwright's life — was nominated for 13 Academy Awards and shares a nomination for Best Picture with "Elizabeth," another film set against the backdrop of Elizabethan England.

These pictures are only the tip of the Shakespeare iceberg. Coming soon are a slew of movies based on his plays, including Julie Taymor's version of "Titus Andronicus" (with Anthony Hopkins, Alan Cumming and Jessica Lange) and a film adaptation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (with Calista Flockhart, Michelle Pfeiffer and

to his work that has allowed successive generations of directors, critics and actors to continually reinvent him in their own image and to find new ways (some profound, some forced, some silly) of pointing up his relevance. Restoration critics emphasized his role as a dracourses on popular culture and matic playwright who addressed gender studies prompted womes public and political issues. Romantics portrayed him, romantically, as the poet of melancholy and love. And modernists have stressed the difficulty of his work, its layered, contradictory meanings.

> speare's work that accounts for his enduring ability to engage the popular imagination, his accessibility to so many eras and cultures? The usual reasons offered for his greatness --- the richness of his language, the range and depth of his characterizations, the fecundity of his imagination - do not explain why he rather than, say, Dante or Chaucer
> has remained a household name. Nor do paeans to his storytelling

gifts; after all, he lifted most of his

Just what is it about Shake-

plots from existing works.
In his controversial book, "Reinventing Shakespeare." Taylor, an editor of an Oxford University Press edition of the playwright's works, suggested that the Bard owed much of his success to happy accidents of history. "If France had won its wars against England, if England like other countries had been culturally transformed by the upheavals of the late 18th century," he wrote, "then Shakespeare would almost certainly not have achieved or retained

Shakespeare's current international reputation, in Taylor's view, was at least in part "the fruit not of ated the English language on every

the dominance he now enjoys."

There is something to the ar-Certainly the fact that Shake-speare is a brand name, one who neither demands royalties nor con-tests rewrites, has something to do with this. But there is a latent power



Paul Rudd and Helen Hunt in "Twelfth Night" last year.

become our familiar.

become our familiar.

We daily use phrases popularized by Shakespeare — "brave new world." "the primrose path," to the thoughts of characters on the new world." "the primrose path," television show "Ally McReal." of change and growth. I be thoughts of characters on the new world of the portraits of human being of change and growth. I be thoughts of change and growth. I be thoughts of change and growth. I be thoughts of characters on the new world of human being of change and growth. I be thoughts of change and growth. I be the thoughts of change and growth an

taught in schools, cited in diction- existential indecision. When we his genius but of the virility of aries, studied by scholars and lay-British imperialism, which propag-men alike — he has insidiously screen, we are seeing updated variations on "A Midsummer Night's to the thoughts of characters on the television show "Ally McBeal," of change and growth. He brought

acquainted" with him "without knowing how."

ew of delibly Nine Oth-In fact, his influence on other writers has been so pervasive that he has become part of the very literary air we breathe. Dosto-yevsky, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Freud, Baudelaire, Ibsen, Strindberg and Pirandello are just a few of the authors and thinkers indelibly shaped by Shakespeare. Nineteenth-century nihilism and 20thcentury psychology, French existentialism and Emersonian self-re- 'y liance - all could be said to have seeds in Shakespeare's art.

The fact that such crucial writers and philosophers responded so ardentily to Shakespeare, however, suggests that there was something in the playwright's work itself that was in time with the modern Zeitgeist. The very style and structure of his work — mixing and remak-ing genres, fusing highbrow art and popular entertainment, breaking the fourth wall of the stage — prefigure our post-modernist outlook, just as his work's ambiguity and pursuit of plural truths resonate, as Bate argues, with our age of relativity.

The game-playing of Shakespeare's characters, their gender confusion, their romantic and familial disputes, their efforts to grapple with the contingency of grapple with the contingency of reason and love, all seem peculiarly modern. Such spirited, independent heroines as Beatrice and Rosalind appear to have more in common with today's feminists than the circumscribed women of Elizabethan England, while such ques-tioning heroes as Hamlet, so skilled in irony and self-dramatization, reflect the preoccupation with the self manifested by both the Reform-

ation and contemporary America.
In his best-seller, "Shakespeare:
The Invention of the Human," Harold Bloom argued that the playwright was the first writer to give us of change and growth. He brought psychology to the fore, Bloom sug-gested, while laying out an unsen-timental, even nihilistic vision of a

#### **PEOPLE**



STUDY - Passersby examining some of the 70 sculp-STUDY — Passersby examining some of the 70 sculp-tures by the Senegalese artist Ousmane Sow scattered bought by the toy maker Mattel Inc. heart valve. The operation was "a com-bought by the toy maker Mattel Inc. along the Pont des Arts across the Seine in Paris. Christie's auction house in New York recovery," his spokeswoman said.

awarded the \$49,000 David Cohen British Literature Prize for lifetime achievement. He was given an additional \$16,000 from the Arts Council, which sponsors the David Cohen prize, to offer to a cause that would help young writers. Trevor. 70, asked that it be used as a scholarship fund for young writers from Omagh, the site of Northern Ireland's worst terrorist atrocity. "I have based this idea on my own indigence at a similar time in my life," he said. "It is, I believe, a time when creative people need most financial support." Some of his bestknown novels are "Fools of Fortune," 'Reading Turgenev,' "My House in Umbria" and "Felicia's Journey."

A dress worn by Elizabeth Taylor

THE writer William Trevor has been said it was the second highest price ever paid for a gown. The highest price, \$222,500, was paid in 1997 for a dress that Diana, Princess of Wales, had worn when she danced with John Travolta at a White House dinner in 1985. The 56 dresses being auctioned off Thursday were donated by actresses who included Lauren Bacall, Cher. Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon. Mattel plans to display Taylor's dress, which was designed by Edith Head.

Arnold Schwarzenegger has added a doctor as a defendant to his \$50 million libel suit over a supermarket tabloid story claiming that the actor was suffering from heart disease. A judge in Los Angeles ruled Tuesday that Arnold Fox, the Academy Awards in 1969 sold for included in the suit. The lawsuit was want Hollywood to cut out of the \$167,500 at an auction to benefit AIDS prompted by a cover story in August movies," said Don Lundy, 18, of Holly-research. The sleeveless crepe evening headlined "Arnie's Heart Crisis." But wood High School. The 250 judges gave: dress, whose periwinkle blue and violet the actor had surgery in 1997 to replace a a thombs-up to "Armageddon," star-

A public garden named after Diana, Princess of Wales, will open soon in the heart of Paris, Mayor Jean Tiberi said. The garden, in the Marais district on the right bank of the Seine, is to be inangurated in the spring on a date yet to be set. "Parisians, who are very emotional people, wanted to pay a special tribute to this woman who won their attention through her dignity and commitment to charity." Tiberi told Reuters Television on Thursday. Diana died following a car crash in a Paris underpass in 1997.

A group of California teen-agers has given "There's Something About Mary" a dubious Hackademy Award for the comedy's portrayal of tobacco use, particularly in romantic scenes. "This is exactly the glamorous portrayal that we wood High School. The 250 judges gave ring Bruce Willis and Liv Tyler. Willis. did not light up once in the film, despite the impending end of the world.

er:

AGENDA

Explosion :

India ( )



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